MONDAY
February 10, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 34

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

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BJP begins talks to select Delhi CM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after winning 48 of the 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly election, a delegation of the BJP's winning candidates, led by Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, met Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena on Sunday.

Mr. Sachdeva was accompanied by Parvesh Sahib Singh, who defeated AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, Kailash Gahlot, former AAP Minister who switched over to the BJP in November 2024, and Arvinder Singh Lovely, who was the chief of the Congress Delhi unit before jumping ship in May last year. BJP sources said it was a courtesy call and another meeting with other MLAs-elect will be scheduled.

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ATISHI RESIGNS
» PAGE 13

31 Maoists, 2 jawans killed in encounter

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

In the biggest anti-Maoist operation of the year, at least 31 alleged extremists were gunned down by security forces in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Sunday, the police said.

Two security personnel were killed and two injured in the gun battle.

Inspector-General of Police (Bastar Range) P. Sundarraj said the encounter had taken place when a security team conducted a search in the National Park jungles on a tip-off about the presence of Maoists.

"The encounter began around 8 a.m., and the exchange of fire continued intermittently till 4 p.m. The bodies of 31 uniformed Maoists – 20 men and 11 women – were recovered," Mr. Sundarraj said.

The bodies of head constable Naresh Dhruv of the District Reserve Guards and constable Vasit Raote of the Special Task Force were taken to the district headquarters. The two injured personnel, said to be out of danger, were flown to Raipur for treatment.

One of the two constables injured in an encounter with Maoists being brought to a private hospital in Raipur on Sunday. ANI

Arms recovered

Arms and ammunition, including AK-47, INSAS and .303 rifles and grenade launchers, were recovered, the police said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Biren quits as Manipur CM after meeting Shah

Governor accepts resignation, asks him to continue till 'alternative arrangements made'; Union Home Secretary reviews security situation in State, forces asked to be available at short notice

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh stepped down from the post following a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Sunday.

Mr. Singh, who was summoned to the national capital by Mr. Shah, tendered his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla soon after reaching Imphal.

The Governor accepted the resignation and asked him to continue in office till "alternative arrangements are made", the Raj Bhavan said in a statement.

A senior government official said that President's Rule is a likely option in the State only if no other party or BJP member stakes claim to form the government. The BJP State leadership was said to be in a huddle to decide the next course of action.

The Assembly session that was to be convened on Monday was declared null and void by the Governor on Sunday evening.

A top government source told *The Hindu* that around 11 a.m. on Sunday, ahead of Mr. Singh's resignation, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan chaired a virtual meeting to review the internal security situation in Manipur. The meeting was attended by the Army, Assam Rifles and Manipur Security Adviser Kuldiep Singh. Security forces were asked to maintain high alert amid likelihood of violence by vested interests and were asked to be ready for deployment at "short notice".

N. Biren Singh hands in his resignation as Manipur Chief Minister to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla in Imphal on Sunday. ANI

CM appears to have lost support before resigning

GUWAHATI
Out of 46 MLAs of Manipur's ruling National Democratic Alliance, whose constituents include the Naga People's Front and the Janata Dal(U), only 20 turned up for a meeting held by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh a day before his resignation. » PAGE 13

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NEARBY

Police stop Ed Sheeran's impromptu gig

BENGALURU
An impromptu gig by British pop singer Ed Sheeran on Church Street here was stopped mid-way by the police on Sunday afternoon. » Page 2

'Namma Metro fare hike not limited to 50%'

BENGALURU
As the revised fare structure of Namma Metro came into effect on Sunday, many passengers said they were left shocked. Commuters said that the effective fare hike was much more than 45%. » Page 5

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 9

A never-say-die attitude — the force behind Yuki's pursuit of perfection

The Indian tennis player has overcome a spate of injuries, criticism and the resulting uncertainty through his career and channelled his experience into his life's next chapter - mentorship.

Kamesh Srinivasan

There is a simplicity and sharpness about Yuki Bhambri that lends much power to his tennis, and depth to his personality. Behind his lean, tall frame is a mind that makes him feel comfortable with the very best on tennis courts worldwide.

There is an assurance about Yuki's tennis that gives one the confidence that he is capable of achieving every goal he sets out to achieve, something that came about only after enduring years of uncertainty. Yuki struggled with injuries early on in his career, enough for many to question if he would ever make it big in the sport.

It pushed him back to square one, from where he worked on perfecting his craft in the doubles.

Switch to doubles

Moving lanes was never going to be easy for Yuki. He enjoyed a stellar singles junior career as the World No.1 also winning the 2009 Australian Open junior title. He worked his way to a career-high No. 83 in April 2018. His doubles swap is a relatively new challenge but one that has become key to help him stay with the sport.

The 32-year-old closed the season as the World No. 48, which meant Yuki can compete regularly on the ATP Tour instead of slogging it out in the Challenger circuit.

"There is so much to learn in doubles," Yuki said in a chat with *The Hindu* at the Roundglass Academy in Chandigarh.

Yuki made it to the third round of the Australian Open doubles in 2014 with Michael Venus. He then went on to win a Challenger doubles title with Mahesh Bhupathi in 2016, has indeed come a long way after years of agony and uncertainty. With Saketh Myneni, he won the $15,000 ITF men's events in Lucknow and Gurugram in 2021 to pave the way for his switch to doubles.

The following year, Yuki and Saketh won seven titles, including five Challengers. After a robust campaign in 2023, when he won a Tour event with Lloyd Harris, Yuki settled into a fruitful partnership with the towering Albano Olivetti in 2024.

The pair won two Tour titles and finished as the runner-up in two other events.

"Munich was special because it was our first Tour title on clay. We beat a lot of good teams," he said remembering his triumph in Munich with Olivetti.

More importantly though, they did well in the Grand Slams, reaching the second round of Wimbledon and the third round of the US Open.

After parting ways with Saketh and joining hands with Marcelo Demoliner at the 2023 US Open, Yuki had to go through a bunch of players last year in search of his ideal partner. He played the early part of last season, including the Australian Open, with Robin Haase. They made it to the semifinals of the Dubai ATP 500 event as qualifiers, which ended up being their last outing together.

Later, Yuki played alongside Venus, Ariel Behar, Francisco Cabral, and Lloyd Glasspool before settling down with Olivetti, and the pair played 16 tournaments in the latter part of 2024.

After an early exit at the Australian Open this year, Yuki and Olivetti went their separate ways. The Indian then teamed up with three-time doubles Major winner Ivan Dodig at the Open Occitanie, where they bowed out in the quarterfinals.

Mentoring kids

Not one to shy away from challenges, Yuki was presented another one at the Roundglass Academy. In his role as a teacher and mentor for dozens of aspiring tennis players, he has the guidance of long-time coach Aditya Sachdeva.

On a rainy day, when the players had to get off the slushy clay courts and huddle inside a warm enclosure, a delightful feast of tennis knowledge welcomed them, with Yuki answering every question that was thrown at him.

"Top players know what to do with the ball. They can hit the same ball in so many different ways. You make small improvements and that adds up to your game," he said.

"Make sure that you don't make the same mistake twice. I find different ways to lose," he quipped sheepishly.

Yuki also stressed the importance of closing out a match rather than experimenting and losing focus.

"If you can win 6-2, 6-2, do it. Don't make it 6-2, 7-6. Tennis is a long grind, and you keep meeting the same players," he said, emphasising the advantage of the psychological dominance that comes from clinical execution.

"Initially, you try to hit the ball past the service box. As you grow, you try to hit deeper, bringing down the trajectory. When Rafael Nadal hits the ball, it is difficult to play, not just because of the spin, but also the pace he hits it with."

"An alert mind is half the battle won. When you are playing a new opponent, get as much information as possible in the first few games. Once into the match, it is natural for you to focus on your strengths and hide your weakness".

Skills and technical acumen aside, Yuki insisted that perseverance was the trump card.

"The match is over only when you shake hands with the opponent. Till then, whether you are up or down, the match is alive. It can go the other way, if not handled well. I have realised that the most dangerous game is when you are serving for the match.

"The opponent is eager to stay alive and will throw everything at you. You go for your favourite serve and when the ball comes back, we will see what to do with

GETTY IMAGES

Physio Deeksha Gautam, coach Hardeep Singh Sandhu, chief coach Aditya Sachdeva with Yuki Bhambri at the Roundglass Academy in Chandigarh.

it. Learn to be comfortable under pressure," he said.

"Doing the same things in training may be boring. But you need to love doing the boring job. The work you do in training helps you have an easy match. If you have it easy in training, it will be a hard match for you," Yuki warned.

He dismissed the myth that a tennis player's work was only on a tennis court and shed light on how off-court discipline can make or break a player.

The romance of routine

"It is a 24-hour job. Everything you do or don't matters, every single day. You go through practice, gym, nutrition, recovery, sleep. If you spend more time being awake and watching more reels on Instagram, it all adds up. Sport is about being disciplined".

Yuki also believes that the tougher the coach, the better it is for the player. "Trust the coach. He is trying to make you better. He can't do it without your active cooperation. Listen and learn," he said. "Finally, if you want to excel, learn to use every part of your body, including the brain!"

For Yuki, the mind has always been as much if not more important than the physicality of the sport he plays. Keeping himself sharp mentally has also allowed him to enjoy competition better.

Challenges notwithstanding, Yuki remains eager to make the most of his years on the men's circuit in the doubles. While success is never guaranteed, the New Delhi-born player has shown he has the tenacity to stick it out.

THE GIST

- Yuki, who won a Challenger doubles title with Mahesh Bhupathi in 2016, has indeed come a long way after years of agony and uncertainty. With Saketh Myneni, he won the $15,000 ITF men's events in Lucknow and Gurugram in 2021 to pave the way for his switch to doubles
- The 32-year-old has dismissed the myth that a tennis player's work was only on a tennis court and shed light on how off-court discipline can make or break a player.
- Learning from his own tendency to show haste in high-pressure situations, Yuki swears by prioritising the win rather than experimenting and dragging a game too deep. He underlines the psychological high that comes with clinical execution.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, FEB. 10	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:24
RISE 16:31	SET 04:55
TUESDAY, FEB. 11	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:24
RISE 17:28	SET 05:46
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:24
RISE 18:21	SET 06:31

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	22
Mysuru	33	16
Bengaluru	31	17

Bengaluru Today
31°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be slight cool. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Police pull the plug on Ed Sheeran's impromptu gig on Church Street

While the global music icon claims he had permission to busk there, the police say consent was sought but it was denied

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An impromptu gig by British pop singer Ed Sheeran on Church Street was stopped mid-way by the Bengaluru City Police on Sunday afternoon.

The global music icon who is in the city as part of his Mathematics Tour was singing his pop hit number *Shape of You* on Church Street when a policeman disconnected his microphone from the sound system.

In the video, Mr. Sheeran could be heard saying: "We have permission to be here."

He further took to Instagram and shared a story saying: "We had permission to busk by the way. Hence, us playing in that exact spot, was planned out before. It wasn't just us randomly turning up. All good though."

British singer Ed Sheeran performing at Church Street on Sunday. VIDEO GRAB

However, police officials said that permission was not provided for the performance.

Shekhar H.T., Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central Division), Bengaluru City Police, told *The Hindu* that Mr. Sheeran had no permission to busk on Church Street on Sunday.

"Event managers approached us seeking permission. But we do not allow for such events on the busy street, as there are chances of large crowds gathering and the artists themselves being mobbed. So we rejected permission. However, Mr. Sheeran turned up and began to busk on the street. We even received a call from the public to our emergency helpline 112, following which our personnel went and stopped the artist's performance," he said..

Last year, when the police evicted street vendors from Church Street, buskers were also advised not to perform on the streets.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Civic Commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath said: "There is a rule that permission needs to be taken for busking. But people continue to play and sometimes action is taken."

What netizens said

Meanwhile, those who were on Church Street at the time of the gig expressed disappointment about what happened on social media.

"Just saw Ed Sheeran on Church Street. He sang his song, but sadly the police stopped him in the middle," an X user posted.

"Police officer pulled the plug when Ed Sheeran surprised everyone with an impromptu performance on Church Street! Ed just wanted to vibe, but not today, officer. Not today," said another user.

Unscientific bus stops to be shifted

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is in the process of shifting 52 bus stops in the city after they were identified as unscientific in a joint survey taken up by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP). The stops are being shifted to enable smooth flow of traffic.

"Around two months ago, we received the list of bus stops. Work is in progress to shift them, and we will finish it quickly," said Tushar Giri Nath, Chief Civic Commissioner, BBMP.

These bus stands pose problems to vehicle users and pedestrians due to their unscientific placements.

"When commuting on Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road in Yelahanka, the volume of buses makes it difficult for anyone to drive. There is one point in particular, when travelling from Mother Dairy side towards Vidyaranyapura, called the Thirumala Dhaba bus stand. This bus stand is located right on the corner of the road where all the vehicles take a left turn. Buses stop either before the turning or after the turning, which is especially dangerous as vehicles coming from behind cannot see them," said Ravi Prasad, a retired Central government employee.

However, this is not a new problem. The discussions around such bus stops have been going on since 2015 in the city.

Apart from motorists and pedestrians, even bus drivers face difficulties due to the placement of these bus stops. "There are many such stops in the city and stopping there is a Herculean task, especially during peak hours. Unlike older buses, in new electric buses, the doors won't open until the bus is stopped. We can't move forward before the doors are closed," said a BMTC bus driver.

In 2024, the BTP and the BMTC undertook a survey and identified 52 such stops, including the Silk Board junction bus stop (towards Banashankari), ITPL bus stop towards K.R. Puram and Hope Farm, and the aforementioned Thirumala Dhaba junction.

On the suggestion of the traffic police, bus stops were moved a few metres away from their earlier locations in areas like Goraguntepalya and Hebbal, which are traffic hotspots.

"Although we have moved several bus stops, some of them cannot be moved as there is no space. According to the rules, we can only shift bus stops 50 metres away from the original spot. In that distance, it is difficult to find suitable space. The 52 bus stops we have identified will be shifted in the upcoming days by BBMP," M. N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), told *The Hindu*.

In another move to address traffic woes, bus bays were created on many main roads in the city a few years ago. These bays deviate from the main road and have bus shelters. But, with some bus drivers not coming into the bay and stopping on the main road, commuters face problems regularly.

The problem of other vehicles entering bus bays was also flagged by commuters alighting at the Swami Vivekananda station.

Case registered over instant loan fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused duped people by collecting money on the pretext of processing fees and insurance amount

The Whitefield division Cyber Crime police have registered a case against unknown persons for misusing the name of a private finance company that runs a digital loan app and cheating people on the pretext of providing instant loans.

Based on a complaint filed by Sumithra V., legal manager of SmartCoin Financials Pvt. Ltd., the police have booked the accused under various sections of the IT Act, 2000. The police have also charged the accused with cheating and impersonation.

Fake email IDs

An investigation revealed that the accused created fake email IDs resembling the company name and mailed random people in bulk offering instant loans. Using this bait, the accused duped several people by collecting the money on the pretext of processing fees and insurance amount.

According to the police, the racket came to light when many people who lost money approached the company and raised a complaint. The police are now trying to track down the accused following the money trail.

It's coming up roses for farmers this year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It truly is a rosy season for farmers this year as the combination of weddings and Valentine's Day has driven up the price of red roses to around ₹20 per stem at the International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB).

In the last few years, the price of red roses which was around ₹14 to ₹15 per stem has touched ₹20 owing to an increased demand. "Depending on the stem size, the roses are selling between ₹10 and ₹20 per stem. Red roses continue to be the favourite this month. Although owing to the cold weather the supply was affected during the start of the season, it has improved since last week. We expect the price to go beyond ₹20 per stem ," said M. Vishwanath, managing director, IFAB.

In the last few years, the price of red roses which was around ₹14 to ₹15 per stem has touched ₹20. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Bengaluru, which is known as the floral hub of India, sends roses to other cities across the country, like Mumbai, Chennai, Nagpur, and Jaipur, and also exports them to countries like New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, and Japan during the Valentine's Day season.

However, exports do not seem to be doing so well in the last few years owing to the GST imposed on freight charges. In 2024, according to the numbers provided by Bangalore International Airport Limited, around 90 lakh rose stems were exported marking a 14% increase compared to the previous year. But farmers say that it has been reduced by almost 80% this year. "Exports are getting lesser and lesser owing to the high freight charges upon which GST is also imposed. But we are doing well in the domestic market as there are numerous weddings taking place along with Valentine's Day," said Srikanth Bollapally, director, South India Floriculture Association.

While cut flowers are grown on an area of around 15,000 hectares in the State, Mr. Bollapally said that rose production in concentrated in a 70 to 80 kilometre radius of Bengaluru. "Usually, in a good season, around 1.5 million rose stems are produced every day, while in the peak season like this, up to 2 million roses are produced in a day to cater to demand," he said.

In retail, the prices of roses are much higher than that in the auction centre. On most online portals, a bouquet of 10 to 12 red roses are selling at anywhere between ₹650 and ₹1,000.

Labourer stabbed to death following argument

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 42-year-old construction labourer was stabbed to death, allegedly by his fellow workers following an argument in Akashavani Layout under the Sampigehalli police station limits on Saturday night.

The deceased has been identified as Syed Mehboob.

According to the police, Mehboob had been working with Kanika and Raju, as loaders of crushed stones into lorries.

The trio had been working together for the past five years.

Trivial row

On Saturday, a heated argument ensued among them over a trivial row, and in the melee, Kanika allegedly stabbed Mehboob with a knife. Both the accused fled the scene.

By the time passers-by rushed him to the hospital, he was dead, the police said.

Accused on the run

The police have registered a case of murder and launched a search for the accused who are on the run.

The exact motive behind the murder remains unclear, the police said.

Man travelling from U.K. using fake documents caught at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused was intercepted soon after he landed from London with an emergency certificate

Immigration officials at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) recently caught a 37-year-old private firm employee who travelled to the United Kingdom with fake documents eight years ago.

The accused, G. Jayaveeran from Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, was intercepted soon after he landed at the KIA from London with an emergency certificate.

Upon questioning, he said that he had lost his passport in London and managed to come back using an emergency certificate.

However, this raised suspicion and officials checked his departure details and found that he had boarded a flight to London from Chennai in 2017 in the name of Mathumati Ramaswamy.

Further questioning revealed his original name and that he stayed in London under a forged identity.

Based on a complaint from an immigraton official, the International Airport Police have registered a case against Jayaveeran.

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Tender documents will be available at https://cubeiitm.org/tender.html,
Tender ID: CUBE/ADM/TEND/B&C/027/2024-25
on or after 10-02-2025. Bid submission 19-02-2025.

IN THE COURT OF SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT MALUR
OS No. 123 of 2019

BETWEEN
M/S Fire Luxur Developers Private Limited .... **Plaintiff**
AND
Sri. Munivenkatappa and Others .... **Defendants**

DRAFT OF SUMMONS THROUGH SUBSTITUTED SERVICE ISSUED THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To,
C.V Rajappa, S/o Venkataramanappa, Aged about 44 years, Residing at No.80, near Omshakthi Temple, Gandhipura, Benagaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru-560066 [Defendant No.12]

NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff i.e., M/S Fire Luxur Developers Private Limited, [Previously known as Fire Rhymer Developers Private Limited], (a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013), having its registered office at Commercial Complex (2nd Floor), The Empyrean, Phase 1, Anchemaskur Village, Lakkur Hobli, Chikkatirupati (post), Malur Taluk, Kolar District- 563130, has instituted a suit against you for you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person, or by a pleader duly instructed (and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person; able to answer all such questions, on the issues raised by the Court on 15th day 3 of 2025, at 11:00 in the forenoon, to answer the claim; and as the day fixed for your appearance is appointed for the final disposal of the suit, you must be prepared to produce on that day all the witnesses upon whose evidence and all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence. Given under my hand & the seal of the Court, this 29th day of 1 of 2025.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of that residentially converted land bearing Sy No.33/3 now having property No. 33/3(174) of Chikkatirupathu Grama Panchayath converted as Official Memorandum No.ALN.SR.86/2009-10 dated 25-06-2009) situated Jagadenahalli village, Lakkur Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar district, measuring 2 acre 24 guntas, bounded on:

East by: Land bearing Sy No. 33/4;
West by: Begur Sonenahalli boundary;
North by: Land bearing Sy 33/2; and
South by: Land bearing Sy No. 33/4.

By Order of the Court
Sd/-
Chief Ministrial Officer
Senior Civil Judge Court, Malur

Address of Plaintiff Advocate
GDROIT Advocates G-4, Brigade Business Suites, #44 Ashoka Pillar, Jayanagara Second Block,Bangalore- 560011
office@gdroit.com / 8147730930

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road,
DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/CFPR-IE4 Motors/1981/2024-25 Date: 07-02-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible manufacturers / authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers / Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of Completion
1	Supply of IE4 Motors at Cattle Feed Plant, Rajanukunte.	1 Job	50,000/-	2 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 10-02-2025 to 17-02-2025 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 17-02-2025 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 18-02-2025 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road,
DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/NHMPP-Media for Softner tank/2013/2024-25 Date: 07-02-2025

SHORT TERM RETENDER NOTIFICATION (3rd Call)
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible manufacturers / authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers / Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of Completion
1	Supply, Removal of existing media from Softners, DMF & ACF and Refilling of new media to Softners, DMF & ACF at NHMPP, Ramanagar.	1 Job	56,640/-	2 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 10-02-2025 to 17-02-2025 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 17-02-2025 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 18-02-2025 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಗಂಗಾವತಿ
ತಾಲೂಕ:ಗಂಗಾವತಿ-583227, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ
ರಾಜ್ಯ:ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08533-230243
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.gagavathicity.mrc.gov.in ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ಐ.ಡಿ: itstaff_ulb_gangavati@yahoo.com

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
GANGAVATHI. Tq: Gangavathi 583227, Dist:Koppal, St: Karnataka

NO.CMCGVT/TENDER/15TH FINANCE/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04-01-2025

Tender Notice
As per Standard Tender Procurement Documents (KW-1/2/4)

As per KTPP 2000 Act by the Order and in the name of Governer, Karnataka State Tenders are invite under 2024-25 15th FC, 15th FC 2020-21, 2022-23,Savings for various Civil Work. Eligible registered bidders are requested to bid in Two Cover System via KTPP Portal Website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on/or before the date mentioned as under through e-portal only. Manual application will not be accepted.
Further details contact under signed office at Working hours.

1)	KTPP Portal Tender Schedule Download Date from	10-02-2025 at 05-30 PM
2)	Last Date of Bid Subbmission	24-02-2025 at 05-30 PM
3)	Tender Opening date	25-02-2025 at 05-30 PM or After days
4)	Application Fee (Non-Refundable)	As per KPPP Portal

In case of the Date of Bid Opening happened to be holiday because of any Special Circumstances / Govt. Holiday, The Next Date is considered as Date of Opening.

SlNo.	Work Details	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD (In Rupees)	Working Period
	2024-25 -15th FC , 15th FC 2020-21, 2022-23 Savings			
1	**DMA/2024- 25/EL/WORK_INDENT29527/Call-2**	**113.32**	**1,71,000.00**	**6 months**

Note : Any changes in Calendar of events will be published in http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only

Conditions: 1) Strictly Follow the Conditions as per Tender Document.
2) The Sole Decision of Tender Acceptance & Rejection Authority of Municipal Commissioner CMC Gangavathi.

Sd/- Asst.Exec. Engineer, CMC Gangavathi.
Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, CMC Gangavathi.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Will the baby be a boy or a girl? *SRY* gene claims to have the answer

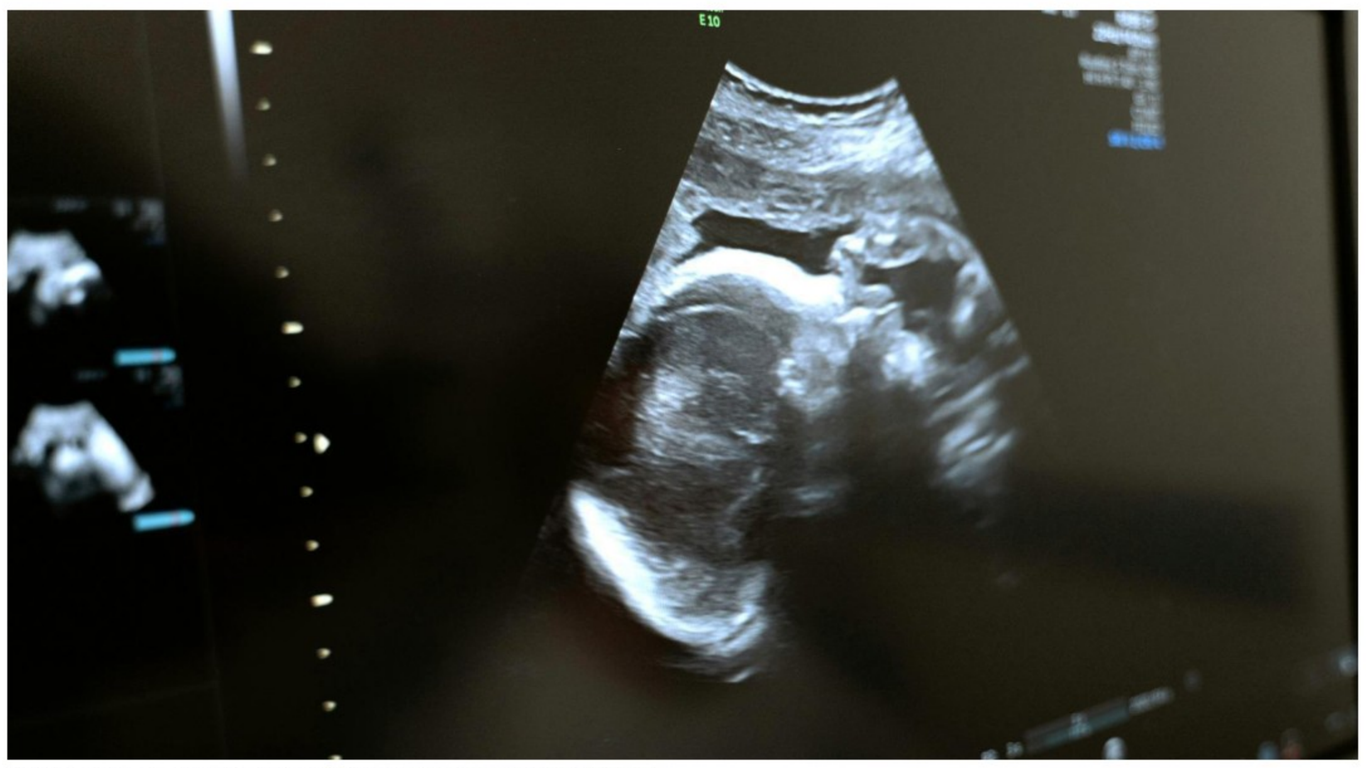
Exceptional instances of females possessing the *SRY* gene have been reported three times in medical literature. Two were in 2024 itself: one from researchers at the Renato Dulbecco University Hospital in Italy and the other from researchers at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, USA

D.P. Kasbekar

Will the baby be a girl or a boy? What decides the outcome? These might well be among the earliest questions asked by our ancestors. We can now offer a fairly comprehensive two-line answer. The *SRY* gene, located on the Y chromosome, triggers development along the male pathway. In its absence, development proceeds along the default female pathway.

Exceptional instances of females possessing the *SRY* gene have been reported three times in the medical literature. Two were in 2024 itself: one from researchers at the Renato Dulbecco University Hospital in Italy, in the journal *Genes*, and the other from researchers at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, USA, in *Molecular Genetics and Genomic Medicine*.

These exceptions further strengthen the *SRY* gene's claim to the primary role in male development.



An ultrasound scan reveals a foetus. Representative image. MART PRODUCTION

The SRY gene

All eggs are alike but all sperm are not. All eggs contain one copy of each of our chromosomes (numbered 1-22) plus one copy of the sex chromosome (called X). Sperm cells also contain one copy each of chromosomes 1-22. But only half of them contain the X chromosome: the other half contain the other sex chromosome, Y.

The fusion of a sperm cell and an egg cell produces the zygote cell, from which the baby develops. Thus, the baby has two copies of chromosomes 1-22, plus either two Xs (XX) or an X and a Y (XY). Those with the Y chromosome develop into males. Those with two X chromosomes develop into females.

After a baby grows to become an adult, depending on their sex it will be their turn to make eggs/sperm. Only one chromosome of each of the 23 pairs is transmitted to the eggs and sperm. Again, the eggs and sperm contain one copy each of chromosomes 1-22. All eggs contain an X, while half of the sperm contain the X and the other half the Y.

The Y chromosome, which leads to the development of maleness, contains the *SRY* gene. An XY embryo that receives an *SRY* gene rendered non-functional by a mutation develops ovaries, which produce the female hormone oestrogen and lead to the development of other female sexual characteristics.

SRY in an XX individual

Very rarely, a mutation can occur that transfers the *SRY* gene from the Y chromosome to the X. These mutations are called translocations. When a sperm bearing a translocation X chromosome fertilises an egg, an XX baby is born with the *SRY* gene.

In most cases, XX individuals with the *SRY* gene develop testes and become biological males. The testes produce the male hormone testosterone and initiate the development of other male sexual characteristics. However, they don't produce mature sperm because other Y chromosomal genes required for sperm formation are absent. Since these males are sterile, the translocation is not transmitted to future generations.

Consider, however, the exceptional XX biological females found to possess the *SRY* gene. The Italy group identified four healthy biological females in three generations of a family, all with the *SRY* gene. Their discovery has shown it's possible for an *SRY*-bearing translocation X chromosome to be passed through generations via fertile females. The individuals bearing the translocation showed no evidence of any abnormalities.

The researchers from the Cincinnati hospital reported the discovery of a different *SRY*-bearing X translocation in an otherwise typical female foetus. The foetus went on to develop into a healthy female baby. But after the baby's birth, the family didn't accede to follow-up studies.

What is it about these two translocation chromosomes that led to the development of healthy females instead of infertile males?

The answer seemed to lie in a detail both groups spotted: both translocations occurred in parallel to the loss of a small portion of the X chromosome, which did away with one or more genes required for viability. The translocations that produced infertile males didn't have these deletions.

> The fusion of sperm and egg produces the zygote. Thus, the baby has two copies of chromosomes plus either two Xs or an X and a Y. Those with Y develop into males. Those with two X chromosomes develop into females

Random v. biased inactivation

During female development in mammals, one of the two X chromosomes is inactivated in all the body's cells. This makes the effective 'dosage' of X chromosome genes the same in XY males and XX females. The X chromosome's inactivation also promotes female development by lowering the levels of maleness genes located on the X chromosome.

In some cells, the inactivated X chromosome is the one inherited from the father, and in other cells it is the one received from the mother. Thus, female mammals effectively have two types of cells: those that express the paternally- or the maternally-derived X.

In the exceptional *SRY*-positive females, however, the translocation X chromosome that had become inactivated. Had the inactivated chromosome been the non-translocation X, the cell wouldn't have survived because essential genes missing from the translocation X wouldn't be expressed. The 'biased' X inactivation resulted in silencing the *SRY* gene, allowing for typical female development.

That only a silenced *SRY* gene can persist in a biological female's genome underscores its significance in triggering male development.

The Cincinnati researchers expressed their concern that low-level expression of the translocated *SRY* gene in later life could lead to disorders in sex development. Surveilling this possibility would require long-term follow-up through puberty. Unfortunately, the family wasn't available for postnatal follow-up studies.

The two studies highlight the importance of examining translocation chromosomes for associated deletions that selectively inactivates the X chromosome. The genome sequences of thousands of biological females are now available. Knowing how many of them carry cryptic *SRY*-bearing translocations could in future help genetic counsellors make more informed personal and medical decisions.

(D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist. kasbekardp@yahoo.co.in)

THE GIST

All eggs are alike, but sperm are not. All eggs contain one copy of each of our chromosomes plus one copy of the sex chromosome X. Sperm cells also contain one copy each of chromosomes. But only half of them contain the X chromosome: the others contain the other sex chromosome, Y

The Y chromosome, which leads to maleness, contains the *SRY* gene. An XY embryo that receives an *SRY* gene rendered non-functional by a mutation develops ovaries, which produce oestrogen and lead to the development of female characteristics

In *SRY*-positive females, the translocation X chromosome is inactivated. This inactivation silences the *SRY* gene, allowing for female development. That only a silenced *SRY* can persist in a female's genome underscores its significance in triggering male development

BIG SHOT

Telescopes around the world spotted a colossal radio jet issuing from a quasar dating back to the first billion years of the universe. Twice as wide as the Milky Way galaxy, this jet of radio waves is the biggest ever detected so early in the history of the universe, astronomers reported on February 6. NOIRLAB/NSF/AURA/M. GARLICK

WHAT IS IT?

Sinuses: little balloons in the face

The Hindu Bureau

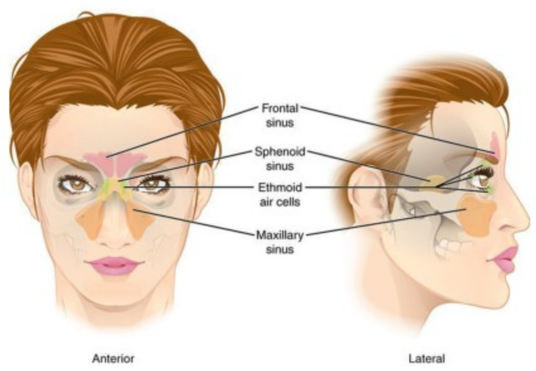
In colloquial use, the term 'sinus' refers to the paranasal sinuses, air-filled sacs arranged around the middle of the face.

The frontal sinuses are located above both eyes, fanning out from the top of the bridge of the nose. The sphenoid sinus is located behind the eyes, underneath the bridge, while the maxillary sinuses are also behind the eyes but flanking the nose. The ethmoidal sinuses are located between the eyes. They are all connected to the brain through the trigeminal nerve, which is also responsible for sensing stimuli on the face.

For all the detail with which scientists have studied them, the precise role of the sinuses is unclear. They have been known to produce nitric oxide, which helps the body retain oxygen.

The sinuses are connected to the nasal cavity through narrow passages called ostia, which can become blocked when the nasal lining is inflamed due to a cold or an allergic reaction. As a result, the sinuses can't drain the mucus they produce and the individual is said to have sinusitis.

The condition can also arise if the individual has a dental infection, growths in the nose called polyps or a weak immune system. Sinusitis can be cleared by drugs that dilute the blockage and/or ameliorate any of the other stressors.



Head-on and side-on views of the locations of the various paranasal sinuses. CFCF (CC BY-SA 3.0)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Youth fined ₹25,000 for provoking wild elephant in Bandipur

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A youngster who was persistently teasing an elephant and provoking it to chase him in Bandipur, was penalised ₹25,000 for his antics, on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday and the youth was identified as Shahul Hameed of Gundlupet. The authorities who received multiple videos of the youth engaged in the prank with the wild elephant on the highway, was identified on Sunday and taken into custody.

S. Prabhakaran, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, said the hefty amount was imposed on him as fine so that it could serve as a warning for others. He also wrote an apology following which he was let off with a warning.

This is not the first such incident that has been reported in Bandipur.

A tourist from Visakhapatnam had a narrow escape when he was chased by an elephant in February 2024.

He too was fined ₹25,000 before being released but such hefty fines has not deterred people from irritating wild animals and also putting themselves at risk for selfies and reels.

Wildlife activists have urged the Forest Department to crack down on such practices of errant tourists by imposing stiffer penalty apart from jailing them.

Plantation worker dies in jumbo attack

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A plantation worker died in an elephant attack at Kattalekan coffee estate in Tanigebail forest range in N.R. Pura taluk of Chikkamagaluru district on Saturday.

The victim was identified as Vinoda Bai, 39, a native of Shivapura in Harapanahalli of Vijayanagara district.

Vinoda Bai went to the estate, along with other workers, on Saturday morning. They encountered three wild elephants roaming in the area.

While other workers managed to escape, Vinoda Bai came under attack. One of the elephants trampled her to death.

She is survived by her husband and three daughters.

The officers of Bhadra wildlife division and Bhadravathi division reached the spot.

MLA for Tarikere G.H. Srinivas and MLA for Sringeri T.D. Raje Gowda visited the government hospital at Tarikere, where the victim's body was kept.

The officers handed over a cheque of ₹15 lakh to the family of the deceased.

Fourth victim

Mr. Raje Gowda said this was the fourth death following an attack by wild animals in Chikkamagaluru district in the last two months.

Mr. Srinivas said he would raise the issue of the elephant menace in the Legislative Assembly and urge the State government to take permanent measures to ensure the safety of the people.

Man booked for stalking woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Yelahanka New Town police have booked a man for threatening a married woman and stalking her after she rejected his proposal for marriage.

The victim runs a shop and the accused identified as Usman Pasha accessed her mobile number on the pretext of online payment and started messaging her and proposing marriage.

The victim spurned him saying she was married and then the accused threatened to kill her husband and mother.

The victim lodged a complaint and the police have registered a case of criminal intimidation and harassment against the accused.

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

KIADB WELCOMES DELEGATES TO GLOBAL INVESTORS MEET-2025

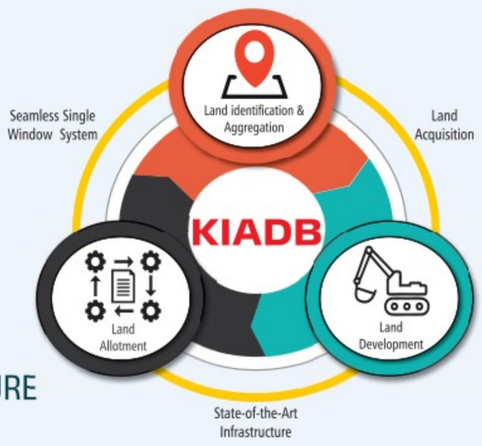
Join us at the Global Investors Meet -2025, where global industry pioneers converge to reimagine a sustainable, inclusive, resilient and tech-driven future. Discover new opportunities, foster strategic partnerships, and be a part of Karnataka's transformative growth story.

Shri M.B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development at a progress review meeting with officers

Reimagining Growth

Invest Karnataka 2025 | Global Investors Meet | Bangalore Palace, Bengaluru | Feb 12-14

Inauguration on February 11, 4 PM



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- Notifies industrial Areas for development of Plug & Play Infrastructure
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WHAT WE OFFER AT INDUSTRIAL AREAS

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE	SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE	SOCIAL
• Industrial Plots • Dedicated Water Supply • Road Connectivity • Solid Waste Disposal • Street Lights • Power Supply	• Gas, Telecom, Common effluent treatment plant, Solid waste management, Other Utilities, Common Facilities Center & Tool Rooms	• Green Spaces & Parks • Commercial Space • Skill Upgradation Centres • Space for public amenities, banks, hospitals, police stations, fire station, community halls etc.

Land Acquired & Allotted

Industrial Areas: 215 Locations
Single Unit Complexes (SUC): 625 Locations

Extents of Land in Acres:
Industrial Areas: 86,850
Single Unit Complexes (SUC): 79,020

Industrial UNITS: 24,215

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

SCAN HERE FOR REGISTRATION

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of Russian drones shot down by Ukraine

70 Ukraine's military said on Sunday that it shot down 70 drones out of the 151 that Russia launched to attack the country overnight. Ukraine's air force said that 74 drones did not reach their targets, likely due to electronic warfare, and two were still in the air. REUTERS

Asylum requests granted in Denmark at a historic low in 2024

860 Denmark's strict immigration policies have led to the granting of the lowest number of asylum requests with the exception of 2020, when COVID-19 lockdowns halted arrivals. The country of six million people registered 2,300 asylum requests last year. AFP

Investment promises before global investors' summit in M.P.

1.8 In ₹ lakh crore. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav courted business leaders in countries ranging from the U.K. to Japan as well as Indian industrial houses in the last few weeks to get investment commitments ahead of the State global investors' summit. PTI

Share of candidates who lost their deposit in the Delhi polls

80 In per cent. Congress candidates lost their security deposits on all but three seats in the Delhi Assembly polls. All the candidates of the AAP, BJP and its allies, Janata Dal (United) and LJP (Ram Vilas) managed to save their security deposits after the election results were declared. PTI

Delhi Assembly MLAs that have declared criminal cases

31 The figure is lower than the 43 MLAs in the seventh assembly who had declared criminal cases. One newly-elected MLA in 2025 has declared cases related to attempted murder while two others are facing charges of crimes against women. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What does the Budget offer Railways?

Knowing that the disappointing financial numbers will not be touched upon, rail watchers, industry and markets clung to one lifeline — capital expenditure. However, the much-anticipated capex push failed to materialise beyond last two years' ₹2.62 lakh crore, signalling that even the government is pausing to reassess

ECONOMIC NOTES

Sudhanshu Mani

The erstwhile Railway Budget, presented a couple of days before the Union Budget, was once a grand spectacle where the Indian Railways (IR), awaited its moment of glory. But since its merger with the general Budget in 2017, the IR has been reduced to a mere footnote. In fact, in the last Budget in July 2024 as also in the one presented on February 1, it did not even get a passing mention.

Knowing that the disappointing financial numbers of IR will not be touched upon, rail watchers, industry and markets clung to one lifeline – capital expenditure (capex). With the IR's own earnings barely covering operational costs, the government's increase in budgetary support to the IR has kept the show running. Over the last decade, a staggering ₹13 lakh crore has been pumped into modernising infrastructure – electrification has soared to 95%, track length has expanded, and rolling stock has seen record additions. And yet, the returns are underwhelming. Freight traffic is crawling at just over 2% growth, despite India's booming economy, and while passenger revenue is rising, patronage remains below pre-COVID levels. This Budget delivered more of the same accounting jugglery to keep the Operating Ratio (OR) below 100. It also did not mention any discussion on past announcements. The much-anticipated capex push failed to materialise beyond last two years' ₹2.62 lakh crore, which in real terms is a correction downwards, signalling that even the government is pausing to reassess.

Not enough: A group of workers and officers of the South Central Railway working on the electrical lines between Vijayawada and Kazipet junction in the Andhra-Telangana border area in 2024. G.N. RAO

Post-Budget conference

In the absence of any more signs in the Budget, one can only draw clues from the post-Budget press conference given by the Railways Minister. The Minister said that immense thrust has been given for the development of infrastructure, modernisation of stations and trains, enhancement of connectivity, safety and comfort of passengers, and that construction of new railway lines, doubling and gauge conversion and addition of new rolling stock would proceed at an accelerated pace. He added that since 2014, an average of 150 km of new tracks have been laid annually as compared to the average of 113 km annually from 2009-2014. This is a positive announcement as the enhancement of rail network and elimination of saturation will help in improving mobility and connectivity.

The Minister further announced that safety-related initiatives will receive an enhanced budget allocation of ₹1,16,514 crore. While the IR has done well in grade separation work, the most pressing safety issue today is the proliferation of Kavach. There was no mention of any increase in Kavach coverage for 2025-26. In fact, since the initial rollout of 1,465 km near Secunderabad, not a single kilometre has been added. While the Minister continued with proclamations of massive investment in Amrit Bharat station redevelopment projects, tangible outcomes are visible only at Gandhinagar, Habibganj, Byappanhalli, Cuttack, Ayodhya, and Charlapalli. A stark example of the IR's lacklustre execution is the New Delhi station – one of the busiest and most high-profile stations – whose much-hyped transformation into a world-class hub has been stuck in an endless cycle of re-tendering for nearly a decade. With all redevelopment now being carried out in an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) mode, following the failure of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects, a key question remains: how will these edifices be maintained when Railway expenses are outpacing earnings?

Mere spectacle

The Minister mentioned that the IR has achieved an average electrification rate of 294 Rkms per year from 2014-25 – 16 times higher than the 18 Rkms per year achieved during 2009-14 – with India slated to become the only 100% electrified and thus the "greenest" railway in the world. This raises some uncomfortable questions – has this electrification spree outpaced necessity, rendering approximately 5,000 diesel locomotives worth ₹30,000 crore idle or underutilised? Furthermore, much of the electricity powering in IR still comes from fossil-fuel-based plants.

It was declared that 200 more Vande Bharat trains would be introduced; without any mention of a timeline. There has also been no word on major pending projects such as the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail, or the conversion of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) coaches to Vande Bharat standards. Instead, we were treated to a grand proclamation, that India aims to build a 7,000-km high-speed rail network supporting speeds of 250 kmph by 2047. A vision distant and devoid of clear-cut strategy, it seems no more than a daydream than a roadmap.

The real sleight of hand, however, was the declaration that the IR is poised to become the world's second-largest freight carrier, touching 1.6 billion tonnes of cargo. Given India's size, this number in isolation is meaningless. The real questions remain: how will the IR reclaim its eroding freight share? Can it improve train speeds and comfort beyond token second-class coach additions?

For yet another year, the Budget suggests that the IR is not on track to transformation – it is merely chugging along, waiting for the next headline -grabbing announcement to arrive.

The writer is leader of the Vande Bharat project and an independent consultant.

THE GIST

- The Railways Minister said that immense thrust has been given for the development of infrastructure, modernisation of stations and trains, enhancement of connectivity, and safety and comfort of passengers.
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How has the Budget allocated funds for urban development?

Does the Union Budget focus on capital-intensive projects? What about funds for urban local bodies?

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:

In 2015, the NDA government positioned urban development as a key pillar of its growth strategy as cities contribute nearly 67% to the GDP. However, in the government's vision for a "Viksit Bharat," cities seem to be conspicuously absent.

What was allocation for urban India?

The total outlay for urban development stands at ₹96,777 crore, higher than last year's Budget proposal of ₹82,576.57 crore. However, if a modest inflation rate is taken into consideration, there is actually a fall in the outlay. The Revised Estimate (RE) suggests that only ₹63,669.93 crore will be spent by March, reflecting an underutilisation rate of 22.9%. One of the biggest shortfalls is in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) [PMAY(U)], which had an allocation of ₹30,170.61 crore for FY 2024-25 but saw a drastic cut in RE to just ₹13,670 crore. This highlights a gap between policy ambitions and actual implementation.

The increase in total urban outlay is misaligned with the urgent need to bridge infrastructure gaps in cities. Instead of focusing on employment and sustainable development, the emphasis remains on capital-intensive projects.

How has reduction happened?

Transfers to urban India primarily occur through three channels – direct transfers to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs); Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS); and Central Sector Schemes. There has been a reduction in direct transfers to ULBs. With the abolition of octroi – a key revenue source for cities – the expectation was that the lost revenue would be compensated through central devolution. With the introduction of GST, the source revenue of ULBs fell by over 21%. But instead of increasing support, the share for ULBs has actually declined from ₹26,653 crore last year to ₹26,158 crore this year. This shortfall will force cities to raise their own revenues, burdening citizens with additional taxes.

CSS involve cost-sharing between the Union, States, and local governments. Some major urban programs under this category include PMAY, the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), and the Smart Cities Mission. However, the Budget allocations for these schemes fall flat. The PMAY (CSS component) saw a 30% reduction in allocation compared to last year, and while the SBM (Urban) retains the same outlay as last year at ₹5,000 crore, RE indicates that only ₹2,159 crore will be spent – 56% less than allocated amount.

Central Sector Schemes are directly controlled by the Union government and often have strong political overtones. A major share of such urban development is directed toward capital-intensive infrastructure projects, particularly metro rail expansion. Unlike other urban initiatives, metro projects have seen increased allocations. In FY 2024-25, the budget for Mass Rapid Transit Systems and metro projects was ₹21,335.98 crore. The RE has now risen to ₹24,691.47 crore. Additionally, the 2025-26 Budget proposes ₹31,239.28 crore, reflecting a 46% increase over the previous year. Prioritising metro rails over comprehensive urban mobility raises concerns about the long-term inclusivity of urban development.

What next?

A new Urban Challenge Fund of ₹10,000 crore has been introduced in the Budget. The government has set an ambitious target of ₹1 lakh crore to implement urban redevelopment programs. However, half of this funding is expected to come from private investments – an over-optimistic approach given the sector's negligible contribution to the Smart Cities Mission.

The Budget's approach to urban development is clear – emphasis on capital-intensive projects and less focus on employment generation, green jobs, and sustainable economic policies. While infrastructure investments are necessary, neglecting social and economic equity could widen existing disparities.

Writer is former deputy mayor of Shimla and Member, Kerala Urban Commission.

THE GIST

- The total outlay for urban development stands at ₹96,777 crore, higher than last year's Budget proposal of ₹82,576.57 crore.
- A new Urban Challenge Fund of ₹10,000 crore has been introduced in the Budget. The government has set an ambitious target of ₹1 lakh crore to implement urban redevelopment programs.
- While infrastructure investments are necessary, neglecting social and economic equity could widen existing disparities.

INBRIEF

Shivakumar, wife take a dip at Triveni Sangam

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and his wife, Usha, on Sunday reached Prayagraj to attend the Maha Kumbh mela. The couple took a dip at the Triveni Sangam on Sunday. According to his office, the couple was received by Uttar Pradesh Industries Minister Nandagopal Gupta at the Prayagraj airport. They participated in the rituals at the sangam and interacted with a few sadhus.

Red gram growers to get ₹450 a quintal along with MSP

With the additional amount announced by the State government, red gram will now be procured at ₹8,000 a quintal. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has announced an additional ₹450 for a quintal of red gram along with the minimum support price of ₹7,550 announced by the Central government which will round off the MSP for toor growers to ₹8,000 a quintal.

Agriculture Marketing Minister Shivanand Patil said in a note on Sunday that the Finance Department had given the approval for the additional ₹450 to be given to farmers. The State government will spend about ₹140 crore towards the additional amount announced, he added.

Stating that farmers had complained that the Centre's MSP was less and had urged the State to increase the MSP, the Minister said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah agreed to provide the additional amount after his attention was drawn to the demand placed by the farmers.

Procurement going on

He said procurement of red gram had commenced in Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Bidar, Yadgir, Raichur, Bagalkot, Ballari, Koppal, Belagavi, Chitradurga, Chickballapur, and Kolar districts. Till now, he pointed out, red gram was being procured at ₹5,800 a quintal.

Meanwhile, the note said the last date for the procurement of groundnut at MSP had been extended till February 15 since many farmers who had already registered had not been able to sell the commodity.

Scene again shifts to Delhi as turmoil in BJP continues

While Vijayendra has been summoned to Delhi by the high command, the rebels too are set to visit the capital to attend the house-warming ceremony of Somanna's official residence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/BELAGAVI

B.Y. Vijayendra and Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal

The developments in the BJP State unit, which is gripped by rebellion, appear to have shifted to Delhi again, particularly with the completion of process of election to the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

While BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra was summoned by the central leaders to Delhi on Sunday, the rebels, who are opposing his leadership, have declared that they too will visit the national capital.

Mr. Vijayendra, who was on the way to attend a programme in Davangere district, rushed to Delhi after he was asked by the party central leaders to visit them, sources close to him said.

New State chief

This has raised political curiosity as the party is in the process of choosing a new president, mostly through an election, while the rebels have been demanding replacement of the incumbent president. Close on the heels of Mr. Vijayendra being summoned to Delhi, the rebel leaders announced their plans to visit the capital again. It may be noted that they had visited Delhi last week to meet the central leaders and demand replacement of Mr. Vijayendra.

This time, the rebel leaders are going to Delhi to attend the house-warming ceremony of the official residence of Union Minister of State for Railways and Water Resources V. Somanna.

It is being said that the Central leaders would be now more relaxed to focus on Karnataka developments as the Delhi elections are over. In an obvious reference to this, MP and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that more time would be devoted to focus on Karnataka now as the Delhi elections are over.

Speaking to media persons, he maintained that the BJP high command was strong enough to handle all these issues and expressed confidence that an appropriate decision would be made by the leadership in due course.

Meanwhile, rebel camp members tried to flex their political muscle on Sunday with their leader and senior MLA Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal not only reiterating that he is in the race for the party State president's post but also declaring that he was also in the race for the post of Chief Minister later. "I am very much in the race for these posts. I consider myself eligible as I am not involved in any corruption or anti-party activities," he told reporters in Davangere.

Yatnal reiterates he is in the race for party State president's post and declares he is also keen on getting the CM's post later

'In our favour'

Mr. Yatnal said the recent Delhi visit of his team was fruitful and claimed, "Every thing is in our favour. Our fight for a change in leadership will succeed. We are not fighting against any individual. Our fight is to cleanse the BJP of dynastic politics and corruption. I am sure the high command will help us in doing that."

'There is a difference between Valmiki's Rama and the one in Ayodhya temple'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

H.C. Mahadevappa

Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa on Sunday maintained that there is a clear difference between the virtuous and steadfast Sri Rama created by sage Valmiki and the Lord Rama at the Ayodhya temple.

"We need to clearly understand there is a difference between these two," the Minister said at Valmiki Jatra at Rajanahalli near Harihar in Davangere district.

"We all know that sage Valmiki was the creator of Rama. However, we have to understand that the Lord Rama in Ayodhya is distinct from the idea of Rama Rajya envisaged by the author. Valmiki has dwelt in detail about the virtues of Sri Rama and his steadfast personality, on occasions like Rama's *Vanavasa* and he being crowned the emperor," the Dalit leader said.

Dr. Mahadevappa urged members of Dalit and tribal communities to get educated and stay away from blind beliefs.

"If we do not get educated properly, there is a danger of our communities being saffronised. It is against the vision of Valmiki. We need to be spiritual, but be wary of blind beliefs. We should shun saffron but embrace the blue colour that symbolises liberty, equality, and fraternity. It also means peace, and endless like the sky," he said.

Mahadevappa urges Dalits and tribal people to get educated and stay away from blind beliefs

'Agitate for our rights'

"We should realise that we will not change for the better just by bathing in the river Ganga. We need to change our minds and aim for the better of our own volition. We also need to agitate to get our rights. As many as 16 members of deprived communities have been elected as legislators in the State. This would not have happened if we had not fought for our rights," he said.

He quoted B.R. Ambedkar and said that political power was the key to finding solutions to all problems. Gaining political power is not difficult if all the deprived communities remain united, he said.

He said the State government would soon take steps to fill backlog vacancies and that a Cabinet subcommittee constituted for the purpose had held three meetings already.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Legislator's fund well spent

A government higher primary school building (*in picture*) looks like a corporate office in central Karnataka, thanks to N. Ravikumar, BJP MLC. He has adopted the government higher primary school in his native place, Huchangipura, in Jagalur taluk of Davangere district and modernised it by spending ₹3.5 crore under the local legislator's fund. Earlier, the school building

was in a dilapidated condition.

The new school building has 16 classrooms spread over 20,000 sq. ft. It has Kuvempu Balayalumandira, Vivekananda Smart Classrooms, B.R. Ambedkar Auditorium, and other facilities. It was inaugurated by Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa recently. Will other legislators emulate Mr. Ravikumar's model and develop government schools in their constituencies?

Will leaders put State BJP in order?

Several senior leaders in the Karnataka unit of the BJP seem to be unhappy with the ongoing factional fights in the party. After MP for Chickballapur K. Sudhakar hopped onto the bandwagon and expressed his resentment against the functioning of State BJP chief B.Y. Vijayendra, MP and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai expressed his severe displeasure over internal bickering in the BJP. Mr. Bommai lamented that internal factions have been fighting for positions and power at a time when people, farmers, and women are in distress in the State owing to "bad governance" of the ruling Congress.

The former Chief Minister believes that the party's high command will take decisions on the State leadership issue. The question of him calling for a meeting of any particular group does not arise, he said, and advised that both the factions should exercise patience and resolve differences through discussions. Now, with the BJP securing power in Delhi, party leaders are hoping that the central leaders will soon focus on the party developments in Karnataka and take appropriate decision.

Governor's visit puts a spoke

Organisers of Mangaluru Triathlon (swimming, cycling, and running) had to cancel the cycling leg of the event on February 2. They cited the reason as the visit of Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to Manglauru and refunded the amount to registered participants. Mr. Gehlot was in Mangaluru to take part in the 'Day at Sea' programme of Indian Coast Guard's Karnataka unit at Panambur. It was on the same day that a host of sporting events, including full marathon, half marathon, sea swimming, and triathlon, were scheduled.

The organisers went ahead with full marathon, half marathon, and sea swimming activities. The convoy of the Governor was to pass on the route of the cycling stretch of the triathlon in the morning, and the police were engaged in facilitating his movement. Hence the organisers delayed the start of the triathlon event by about three hours saying that they are awaiting clearance from the Mangaluru City police. Ultimately, the organisers cancelled the cycling leg of the triathlon. The organisers said they did not want to risk any injury to cyclists riding 40 km on the stretch that includes a part of the National Highway. They went ahead with 1.5-km sea swimming and 10-km running, while cancelling the cycling part. Then the organisers sent out emails to participants and started refunding the registration amount.

Nagesh Prabhu
Raghava M.

Congress criticises Governor returning Ordinance on MFIs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress leaders on Sunday took exception to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot returning the Ordinance on microfinance institutions (MFIs) and accused the BJP of intervening in his decision.

Guarantees' Implementation Committee chairman H.M. Revanna said the Ordinance had been prepared under the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India to curb lending at a higher interest rate, besides preventing harsh recovery methods that involved goondas and recovery process being initiated in the night. People are upset with the current situation... and the Governor returning the Ordinance was not a good move, he said.

The Governor, citing provisions that allegedly amounted to excessive regulatory provisions and higher punishment, has returned the Ordinance, asking the government to pilot a Bill during the Budget session and discuss it in the legislature. Home Minister G. Parameshwara has said the government would address the concerns raised by the Governor.

Former MP and KPCC vice-president V.S. Ugrappa told presspersons here that the BJP had brought pressure on the Governor to stall the Ordinance that was meant to protect borrowers from economically weaker sections. The BJP feared that the Congress government would take credit for the Ordinance, and hence stalled it, he added.

Expert committee to study sudden deaths

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State will form an expert committee to study the cause of rising cases of sudden deaths among young people.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed the Chief Secretary to constitute a committee of experts and scientists to investigate the causes of such deaths, many due to cardiac events.

This was following an email by senior journalist Rajaram Tallur, which raised this issue, said a communique from the Chief Minister's Office.

Fire at Mysuru sewage farm

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A fire broke out at a sewage farm where nearly four lakh tonnes of legacy waste has accumulated over the years, sending plumes of smoke into the sky, in Mysuru on Sunday.

Though the immediate cause of the fire was not known, officials suspected that it could have been triggered by a spark from a local fire near Chamundi Hills. Fire and Emergency Services personnel have sent an extinguisher, and 10 firemen have been deployed to bring the situation under control.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-35/24-25/4688-90 Date: 06.02.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works **ON TOTAL TURN KEY BASIS**:

(1) For procurement of 600kgs(1Kg pack) of Anti Weed Chemical equivalent XLMera-71 annually to avoid weeds grown in the switchyard of 400kV Receiving Station Nelamangala in TL&SS Division, Nelamangala pertains to Ramanagara Circle.

(2) For Increasing Ground Clearance of 66kV Dabaspet Hirehalli SC line by providing 1 no. of 66kV DD+0 KPTCL Design Narrow Based Tower between Tower No: 35-36 at Devarahosahalli village limts, Nelamangala Taluk in TLM Sub-Division, Nelamangala under TL&SS Division, Nelamangala.**(CALL2)**

The Detailed Notification regarding the tenders can be got by logging on or after **12.02.2025** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Transmission (Maint.), Ramanagara Circle, Opp. R.R. Nagar Metro Station, Pantharapalya, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-560 026, Ph: 080-29620155.

FORM NO. RSC-6 [See Rule 6(2)]
Before the National Company Law Tribunal Bench at Bengaluru Bench
Company Application No. C.P. No. 210/BB/2020

ISG Novasoft Technologies Limited – Petitioner.

Before the Hon'ble Members
1. Hon'ble Justice (Retd) T. Krishnavalli, Member (Judicial)
2. Hon'ble Shri Manoj kumar Dubey, Member (Technical)

Order confirming Reduction of Share Capital and Approving Minute

Upon the application of ISG Novasoft Technologies Limited presented on the 12th day of November 2020 upon hearing Shri A. Murali, Authorised Representative for the applicant, and upon reading the said application and upon perusing (here set out the newspapers) containing the notice of the date of hearing of this petition, none of the creditors appearing in person or by the Authorised Representative, and the Tribunal being satisfied with respect to every creditor that either his consent to the reduction has been obtained or his debt or claim has been discharged or has determined or has been secured,

THIS TRIBUNAL DO ORDER:

(1) That the reduction of the share capital of the above Company resolved on and effected by the Special Resolution passed at a General Meeting of the said Company held on the 29th day of September, 2020, which resolution was in

The words and figures following, viz..

"RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the provisions of Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the National Company Law Tribunal (Procedure for Reduction of Share Capital) Rules, 2016 (including any statutory modification, amendment or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force), read with Articles of Association of the Company and subject to the confirmation of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench, the consent of the Members be and is hereby accored to the proposed reduction of the Paid up Share Capital of the Company from Rs. 36,23,07,000/- (Rupees Thirty Six Crores Twenty Three Lakhs and Seven Thousand only) divided in to 3,62,30,700 Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten only) each to Rs. 6,68,07,000/- (Rupees Six Crores Sixty Eight Lakhs and Seven Thousand only) divided into 66,80,700 Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten only) each fully paid up, by cancelling and extinguishing Paid-up Equity Share Capital of Rs. 29,55,00,000/- (Twenty Nine Crores and Fifty Five Lakhs only) divided into 2,95,50,000/- Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten only) each fully paid up.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT UPON extinguishment of Share Capital, the Paid up Share Capital of the Company shall stand reduced to the extent of the face value of the shares so extinguished.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Company shall debit the Equity Share Capital account to the extent of the face value of the Share cancelled under the Reduction of Share Capital application and write-off the Accumulated Losses amounting to Rs. 29,55,00,000/- reflecting in the books of the Company and that this accounting treatment is in conformity with the Accounting Standards applicable to the Company.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT any Director of the Company be and is hereby authorized to do all such acts, matters, deeds and things as may be necessary or desirable including any directions for settling any question or doubt or difficulty whatsoever that may arise, for the purpose of giving effect to the proposed reduction of the Equity Share Capital of the Company as placed before the Board or to any modification thereof, in particular:

a) File application with the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench for directions and confirmation of the proposed reduction of Equity Share Capital, signing, affirming and verifying affidavit, applications, petitions, vakalatnama etc. in the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru, Bench;

b) Make representation on their own or through legal counsels before Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench or other authorities for confirmation of the proposed reduction of Equity Share Capital; and

c) Do all such acts and things necessary and convenient in relation thereto and to give effect to this Resolution as the Board of Director in its absolute discretion consider necessary, expedient and proper.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT in addition to the personnel authorized above, Mr. Vijayakrishna K T and/or Mr. Parameshwar G Bhat, Practicing Company Secretaries, Bengaluru be and are hereby authorized severally to file application with the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench for directions and confirmation of the proposed reduction of Equity Share Capital, signing, affirming and verifying affidavit, applications, petitions, Vakalatnama etc, in the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the Board be and is hereby authorized, in its absolute discretion, to make the reduction and cancellation of the Share Capital on such other terms and conditions as they may consider appropriate and to accept such other conditions and modifications as may be prescribed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench, with other appropriate bodies/ authorities while according their confirmation to the proposed offer for cancellation of Share Capital."

Be and the same is here by confirmed.

(2) The Petitioner Company was directed to file the Compounding Application for non appointment of Company Secretary and the Company had filed the Compounding Application through Form GNL 1 on 23.02.2023 vide SRN F59078568 before Regional Director, South East Region, Hyderabad.

(3) That the minute set for thin the schedule here to be and is here by approved.

(4) That a certified copy of this order including the minute as approved be delivered to the Registrar of Companies within thirty days of receipt of the order.

Dated this 21.1.2025.

SCHEDULE

Form of Minute

The capital of ISG Novasoft Technologies Limited is henceforth, Rs. 6,68,07,000/- (Rupees Six Crores Sixty Eight Lakhs and Seven Thousand only) divided into 66,80,700 Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten only) each. At the date of the registration of this minute 66,80,700 Equity Shares numbered etc., have been issued, subscribed and fully paid up capital and are deemed to be fully paid of Rs. 10/- each and Reserves and surplus will be 1,00,000/-

(By the Tribunal)

*Date of the order to be the date of the approval of the minute. 22/01/2025

Sd/- Registrar.
Deputy Registrar, National Company Law Tribunal Bengaluru Bench.

CACHE

REUTERS

Why are Apple and game-maker Epic facing off against each other again?

A pornography app that can now be accessed in the EU with an iPhone has reignited a long simmering battle between Apple and Epic. In the EU, the Digital Markets Act lets iOS and iPadOS users install apps from alternative app marketplaces or even from an authorised developer's website

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On February 3, an app platform AltStore introduced a new app as "the world's 1st Apple-approved porn app". The new pornography app and the way it was advertised has reignited a long-time feud between iPhone-maker Apple and the game-maker Epic. Though Apple does not allow pornography apps on its App Store, users in the European Union can still download this particular adult app on their iPhones. That's because of the bloc's anti-competitive policy that allows non-Apple app marketplaces to offer their own line-up of products to Apple customers. Previously, they could only download apps from the App Store.

Which app is causing the problem?

'Hot Tub' app is at the centre of this new discontent between Epic Games and Apple. The adult content browser app provides its users privacy and security without sending ads or tracking their location. Rated for users aged 18 and above, the app is available for download through the AltStore PAL—an open source, alternative app marketplace in the EU. AltStore enjoys financial support from Epic Games, as per *AP*. The Fortnite videogame maker's founder and CEO Tim Sweeney is a strong critic of Apple as the iPhone maker collects 30% commission from app developers that charge their users for in-app purchases. In 2020, Epic sued Apple on antitrust grounds in the U.S., and the two companies faced off in court for more than a couple years.

Meanwhile, in the EU, the Digital Markets Act (DMA) sought to foster competition by making Apple let its iOS and iPadOS users install apps from alternative app marketplaces or even from an authorised developer's website. Apple was reluctant to allow this.

What is Apple saying about the matter?

Apple is deeply unhappy about recent developments. The iPhone-maker stressed that AltStore's statement about the porn app being "Apple approved" was false, and that it would never offer Hot Tub through its own App Store, per *AP*. "The truth is that we are required by the European Commission to allow it to be distributed by marketplace operators like AltStore and Epic who may not share our concerns for user safety," Apple was quoted as saying.

The iPhone-maker also expressed concern for children's safety in the EU due to the presence of the porn app. Apple has in the past raised concerns about the security risks of opening up its app marketplace ecosystem to rivals, but the process is not a free-for-all. Instead, Apple has a review mechanism called "notarisation" to ensure that all apps from diverse distribution channels meet fundamental accuracy, functionality, safety, security, and privacy standards. However, Apple warned that "even with these safeguards in place, many risks remain."

AltStore, in turn, claimed that Hot Tub was indeed "approved" by Apple since it passed the tech company's notarisation process and was not rejected. "To be perfectly clear, Apple has not endorsed Hot Tub in any way. However, they did approve it," said AltStore in an X post on February 5. AltStore further noted that users will have to add Hot Tub's source (URL) to make it appear in the AltStore PAL marketplace, meaning that people who do not wish to see the porn app cannot stumble across it by accident.

What is Epic's argument?

Epic Games' Sweeney has lashed out against Apple's statement, claiming that it is false and calling the company "extremely disingenuous." In an X thread on February 4, Mr. Sweeney raised the counter-argument that Apple did indeed allow "hardcore" pornography by hosting other apps with adult content or pornography – such as Reddit – on its own official app store. "So, if this Hot Tub app available through AltStore continued to host its current porn, and also added lots of non-porn content, the Apple's App Store terms would welcome it. And if they treated it like Reddit, they'd even give it a 17+ (!!!) rating and Editors Choice Award," Mr. Sweeney posted.

Separately, the CEO claimed that the Epic Games Store for PC and mobile did not host any porn apps.

What is the EU's stance?

The EU calls the DMA "one of the centrepieces of the European digital strategy" to maintain fair competition among businesses in the region by identifying tech behemoths, or "gatekeepers" such as Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, ByteDance, Meta, and Microsoft, and holding them accountable. The DMA is meant to protect consumer choices and level the playing field by making sure gatekeepers do not abuse their dominance in the marketplace.

On the flip side, the availability of a native pornography app on iPhones and iPads in the EU raises serious questions. For one, it bring up the issue of not just who offers apps to Apple product users, but also what type of apps these marketplaces host.

That being said, many social media users were quick to point out that an Apple customer trying to watch pornography could simply open up the company's Safari browser and start typing away, with or without the DMA.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As we have reached the business end of domestic cricket's premier tournament, the Ranji Trophy, here's a quiz related to it as the quarterfinals are on

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

The powerhouse of the Ranji Trophy has historically been the Mumbai/ Bombay team, which has won the tournament a record 42 times. The second best number is just eight. Which State/team holds this distinction?

QUESTION 2

Wasim Jaffer holds the record of scoring the most runs in the Ranji trophy — a whopping 12,038. Among active cricketers, who holds the record for the most runs? Hint: He was till recently, a prominent Test batsman and ranks 12 in the overall list.

QUESTION 3

When this batsman was batting on 443 not out for Maharashtra against Kathiawar during the 1948-49 Ranji Trophy season, he was just nine runs short of the then first class batting record held by Sir Don Bradman (452 n.o), Kathiawar's captain Pradyumansinhji Lakhajirajsinhji conceded the match to avoid embarrassment. Who was this batsman?

QUESTION 4

Speaking of Bradman, which erstwhile Test cricketer held the Bradmanesque average of 98.35 after scoring 3,639 runs in the Ranji Trophy?

QUESTION 5

What distinction is jointly shared by Premangsu Chatterjee of Bengal (achieved in the 1956/57 season) and Pradeep Sunderam of Rajasthan (achieved in the 1985/86 season) in the Ranji Trophy?

Visual question:

Identify this bowler who owns the record for most wickets taken in the Ranji Trophy, 637 and yet never got a chance to play for India. Which State/team did he represent in domestic cricket? THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the February 7 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This actor voiced Pinocchio as well as this character. **Ans: Dick Jones; Alexander**
2. Name the island in the Pinocchio world which is cursed. **Ans: Pleasure Island**
3. The movie is based on the works of Carlo Collodi who wrote the original story titled this in this Italian magazine. **Ans: La storia di un burattino;** *Giornale per i bambini*
4. This person sang the song which won the Best Original song award for Pinocchio. **Ans: Cliff Edwards**
5. Styled with a signature blue top hat, this character is the narrator of the movie. **Ans: Jiminy Cricket**
Visual: This director created a stop-motion animated version of the film. **Ans: Guillermo del Toro**
Early Bird: Aditi Mishra

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

He blacked out when he was jogging

We had to postpone our trip to Switzerland due to the whiteout in some areas

S. Upendran

"I heard that a good friend of yours was arrested last night. Is it true?"

"Kranthi was arrested a couple of days ago, not yesterday. He's not, what I'd call, a very close friend."

"I see. Was he questioned?"

"For a couple of hours, I understand. The police said that Kranthi's account of what happened didn't really add up. So, they arrested..."

"Didn't add up? There are no numbers to add here. What are you..."

"The expression 'add up' has several different meanings. When you say that the explanation that someone has provided doesn't add up, what you're suggesting is that it doesn't sound very reasonable. It doesn't fit the facts."

"In other words, it doesn't make any sense. The explanation has loopholes."

"I guess you could say that! Here's an example. Some of the claims that the presenter made just didn't add up."

"As far as the Police are concerned, the story that the accused told them just didn't add up."

"That's a good example."

"So, how did Kranthi react when he was told he was being arrested?"

"Apparently, he had a blackout."

"He had a blackout? Don't you mean that there was a blackout in the station?"

"You're right! The word 'blackout' is normally used to refer to a power failure – a period of time when there's no electricity."

"During summer, we experience blackouts for a couple of hours."

"That's a good example! It's also possible, however, to use the word 'blackout' with human beings. When someone has a blackout, he loses consciousness for a short period of time. For example, Sarita had a blackout after walking in the afternoon sun for a couple of hours."

"The batsman had a blackout after being hit by a bouncer."

"By the way, when you wish to use the word as a phrasal verb, you write it as two words – black out. The old man blacked out when he saw a snake on his lawn."

"Prabhu was laughing so hard that he almost blacked out."

"As he entered the house, he blacked out and collapsed on the floor."

"Tell me, does the word 'whiteout' exist?"

"Yes, it does!"

"Really? What does it mean?"

"Like the word 'blackout', 'whiteout' too has several different meanings. One of them is heavy snowstorm."

"I see. The falling snow and heavy winds probably make it very difficult for a person to see. Everything looks so white."

"Exactly! This is an expression mostly used in countries where it snows heavily. We had to postpone the trip because of the whiteout."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

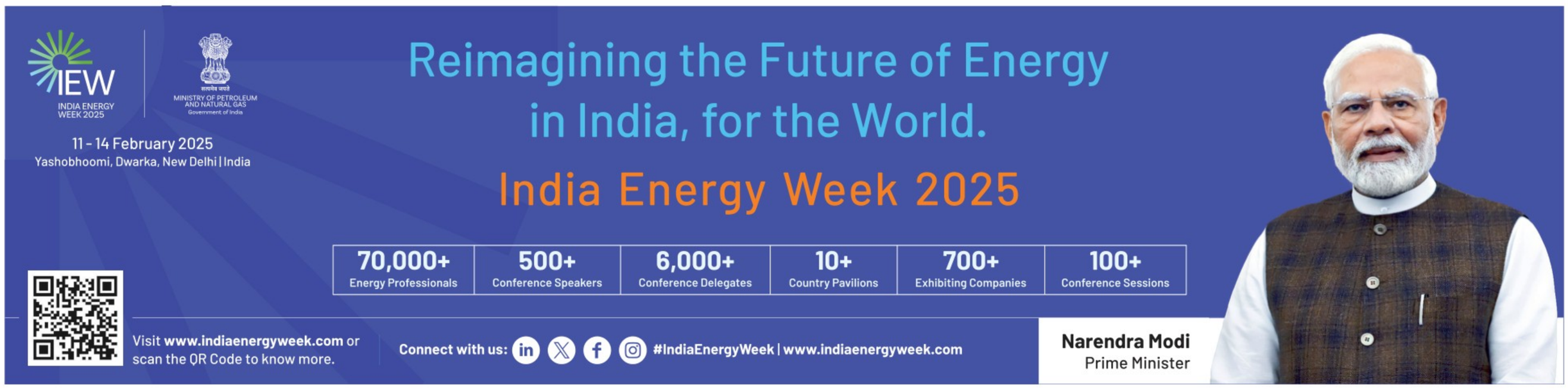
Canard:
a deliberately misleading fabrication; a false or improbable account

Usage: *The book should refute the old canard that he is guilty.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/canardpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəˈnɑɹd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'



Metro fare hike not limited to 50%, say many commuters

'It might look that way between some stations, but our calculations have been done stage and kilometre-wise. From one stage to another there is around 45% to 47% increase in the fare'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the revised fare structure of Namma Metro came into effect on Sunday, many passengers said they were left shocked. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) on Saturday announced a 50% hike on the maximum price which was ₹60 to ₹90, and stage-wise hikes around 45%. However, many commuters claimed that the effective fare hike was much more than 45%. Some complained that it had increased by 100% between certain stations.

"Even though BMRCL claims that the hike is only 45%, for certain station pairs, it ranges from 70% to 110%. For example, the fare from Whitefield to Singayyanapalya was ₹28.5/- and is now ₹60. The sudden jump of ₹10 in each fare stage is ridiculous. Eg. Whitefield to KR Pura, earlier fare was ₹35 and the new fare is ₹60. Almost 70% hiked. High time BMRCL must Revoke Metro Fare Hike," said Sreejith S. Pai on X.

"The committee suggested a 45% hike. BMRCL nicely doubled it to 90% by inventing tweaks like fare stage difference being hiked from ₹3 to ₹10 directly," he further said.

"The ticket cost from Benninganahalli (Tin Factory) to Majestic was ₹30 before and now it is ₹60. If it was a 50% increase, then the fare should have been ₹45. How is it ₹60, is it a 100% raise?" asked a commuter on X.

"BMRCL claims a mere 15% fare hike, yet my wallet insists it's more like 100%. Guess math works differently in the metro tunnels!" said Abhishek B., another X user who had taken the train from Cubbon Park to Balagangadharanatha Swamiji Station, Hosahalli.

He had attached images which showed that while the previous fare for the same distance was ₹20.9 before, now it is ₹40.

While the base fare of metro (0 to 2 km) is ₹10, for the next stage (2 to 4 km), the fare has been hiked from ₹15 to ₹20 and ₹90 for distances beyond 30 km.

When asked about allegations that the fare was almost double, a public relations officer of BMRCL said: "It might look that way between some stations, but our calculations have been done stage and kilometre-wise. From one stage to another there is around 45% to 47% increase in the fare," the official said.

Tejasvi Surya, MP, claimed that Bengaluru metro fares were the highest in the country. "No other metro charges this high, nothing beyond ₹60 and the hike is extremely steep," he said.

"While commuters in Delhi pay ₹30 for a 12-km ride, Bengaluru will have to pay ₹60 - double the amount. Bengaluru metro fares should be at par with other metros in the country," Mr. Surya said.

"Karnataka government, instead of incentivising public transport and discouraging private vehicles, is doing the exact opposite with the Metro Fare Hike. Hike in bus fares coupled with big metro fare hike puts burden on the wallet of people and discourages use of public transport. I request BMRCL to re-look at fare revision, raise the non-fare revenue via ads, and lease spaces for commercial use by studying the best practices across the metros," he said on X.

However, many have pointed out that the Union government has stakes in BMRCL and that P.C. Mohan, MP, had claimed that the hike was put on hold as the Union government had sought an explanation on February 1, but it had now come into force.

The first coach of the second Yellow Line train that arrived at the Hebbagodi depot on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tejasvi Surya, MP, has claimed that Bengaluru metro fares were the highest in India

Yellow Line coach arrives

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The first coach of the second Yellow Line train of the BMRCL arrived at the Hebbagodi depot on Sunday after travelling over 1,900 kilometres from Titagarh to Bengaluru. All six coaches of the train have now reached Bengaluru.

Three-day Kumbh Mela at T. Narsipur in Mysuru district from today

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A three-day Kumbh Mela will be held at T. Narsipur from Monday, coinciding with the ongoing event at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.

On the first day, there will be special rituals complete with 'Gana Homa', religious congregation of seers, and cultural events in the evening.

Apart from cultural events, there will be 'aarati' on the banks of the river on Tuesday while the Kumbha Punya Snana is scheduled for February 12 from 9 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and from noon to 1 p.m, according to the district administration.

The government has released ₹six crore for the preparations, and security has been beefed up to prevent any untoward incidents. Facilities have been created for bathing along the riverbanks and near the confluence of the rivers.

The Mysuru district administration is expecting a huge turnout for the Kumbh Mela. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Reckoned to be as sacred as Prayagraj, T. Narsipur is at the confluence of the Cauvery, Kapila, and the invisible Spathika Sarovara, just as Prayagraj is at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical and invisible Saraswathi. In addition, T. Narsipur is also a place rich in history and has temples with a hoary past, adding to the sanctity of the place.

An example is the Gunja Narasimhaswamy temple, which is associated with sage Agastya. But unlike the Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj whose origins are traced to the churning of the ocean in Hindu puranas, the event at T. Narsipur is a tradition in making. It was first conducted in 1989 and this year's event will be the 13th edition of the spectacle that will unfold from Monday.

But unlike the Kumbh Melas which is held once in 12 years at Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik, it is conducted once in three years at T. Narsipur, coinciding with the event held in each of the four centres.

An initiative of various seers, with the Suttur Mutt seer Shivarathri Deshikendra Swami taking the lead, the objective is to provide people who cannot visit Prayagraj with an opportunity to take a holy dip at the confluence of the three rivers at T. Narsipur.

Fire prevention efforts intensified in villages surrounding Bandipur

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

Authorities in Bandipur are bracing for a scorching summer in the coming weeks and have launched awareness campaigns in local villages and hamlets surrounding the tiger reserve to emphasise the importance of preventing forest fires during the season.

So far, 65 awareness camps and drives have been conducted in a bid to curb the outbreak of fires, which are a major concern in Bandipur during the dry season. The tiger reserve has a history of devastating fires that have previously ravaged vast stretches of forest.

The tiger reserve has a history of devastating fires. M.A. SRIRAM

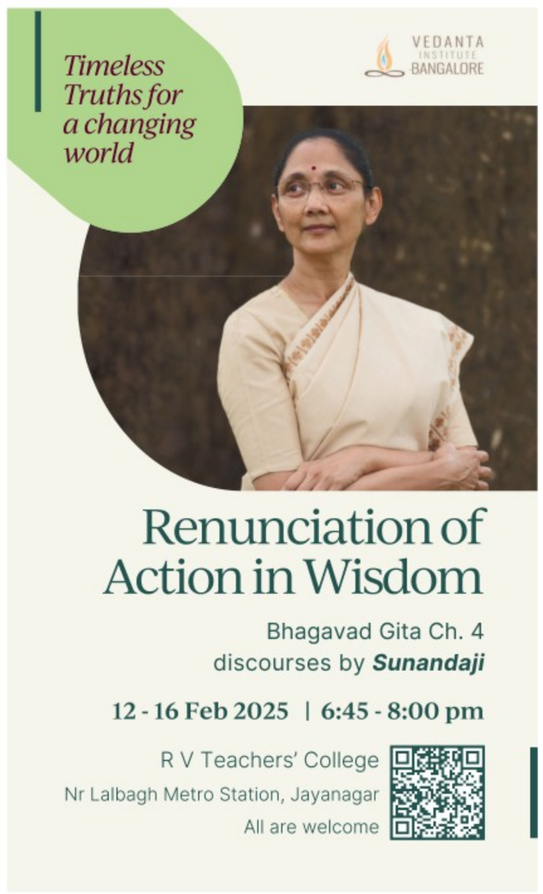
S. Prabhakaran, director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, told *The Hindu* that the awareness drive will continue until nearly all the hamlets and villages bordering the forests are covered. "This is a proactive measure to build goodwill and gain the trust of the local community in protecting the fragile ecosystem, which is highly vulnerable to fire," he said.

The importance of this initiative stems from the need to enlist local cooperation in the early detection of fires.

Also, fire prevention is most effective when the community is involved and feels a sense of ownership over the forest. Spread over 912 sq.km., Bandipur had more than 150 tigers as per the Status of Tigers and Co-predators - 2022, published by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. It also has over 1,100 elephants and harbours leopards, dholes, and a healthy prey density to support the carnivore population. Hence fire protection is taken seriously as the outbreak of any conflagration could mar the quality of the habit which is already under threat from weeds like lantana.

Though forest fires are considered a natural part of the ecosystem, it tends to be uncontrolled and devastating when aggravated by human activity such as agricultural burning, or careless disposal of cigarette butts.

MISCELLANEOUS



Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
Office of the Director Tourism, # 03,04th Floor, Embassy Icon Building, Infantry Road, Bangalore - 560 001 Ph: 080-22352525. Fax: (080) 22352626, E-mail: tourismkarnatakapublicity@gmail.com

File No: DT/PUB-1/01/2024-25 Date:07.02.2025
Indent Number: DT/2024-25/SE0071

NOTICE INVITING FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Department of Tourism, Government of Karnataka (DoT) intends to appoint Lead Agency for Marketing, Branding, and Public Relations for Karnataka Tourism by inviting proposal from competent agency(ies) having similar experience in accordance with the Request for Proposal (RFP) Document. The Bidding Document may be downloaded from the KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **07.02.2025** onwards. Bidders may submit their Proposals through KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website.

A Pre-Proposal meeting will be held on **18.02.2025 at 03:00 PM**. at Office of the Director, Department of Tourism. The last date and time for submission of Proposals (Proposal Due Date) is **07.03.2025 upto 5:00 PM.** The Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders to be received without assigning any reasons thereof. All subsequent notifications, changes and amendments will be posted only on the aforesaid KPP Portal.

In case of any queries/clarifications on the project/documents please contact DoT.

Sd/-
Joint Director (P&P) and Tender Inviting Authority.

DIPR/CP/JA/4941/2024-25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-WEST), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender EMD Amount		Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1.	(WWM-STP) K&T Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP) K&T/AE/658/2024-25 Date: 04.02.2025	1.	Rs.40,57,905/- Rs.81,160/-	24.02.2025 upto 4:00 pm.	25.02.2025 after 4:05 pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-STP)-K&T Valley

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

2.	East-2	BWSSB/2024-25/WS/ WORK_INDENT1483/Call-7	1.	Rs. 77,14,000/- Rs.1,54,300/-	17.02.2025 upto 4:00 pm.	18.02.2025 at 4:00 pm.
3.		BWSSB/2024-25/WS/ WORK_INDENT1480/Call-7	2.	Rs. 75,38,000/- Rs. 1,50,800/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri - Operation & Maintenance), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

4.	Kaveri (O & M-2)	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/3016/2024-25 Date: 05.02.2025	1.	Rs. 74.14 Lakhs Rs.1,50,000/-	24.02.2025 upto 4:00 pm.	25.02.2025 after 5:00 pm.
5.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/3019/2024-25 Date: 05.02.2025	2.	Rs. 77.48 Lakhs Rs. 1,55,000/-		

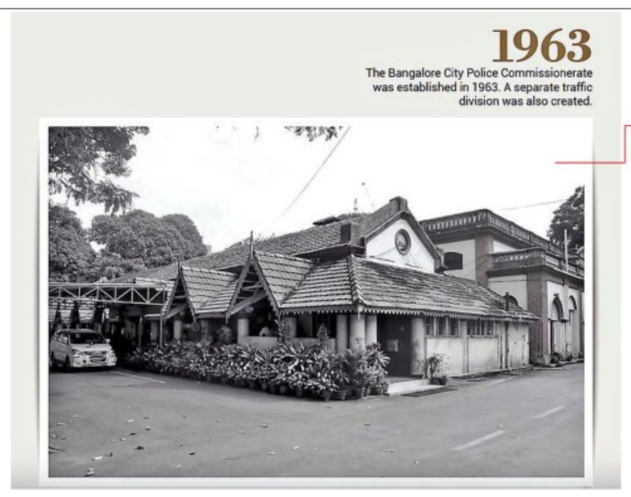
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-Operation & Maintenance-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

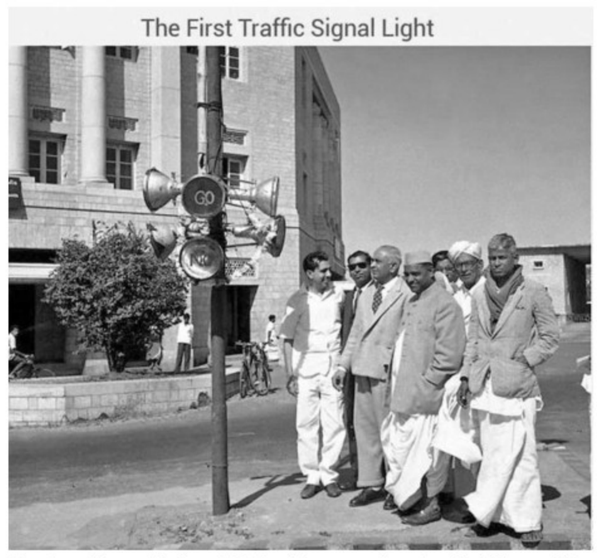
DIPR/CP/4923/SSC/2024-25

Know when Bengaluru got its first traffic policeman and more in this museum

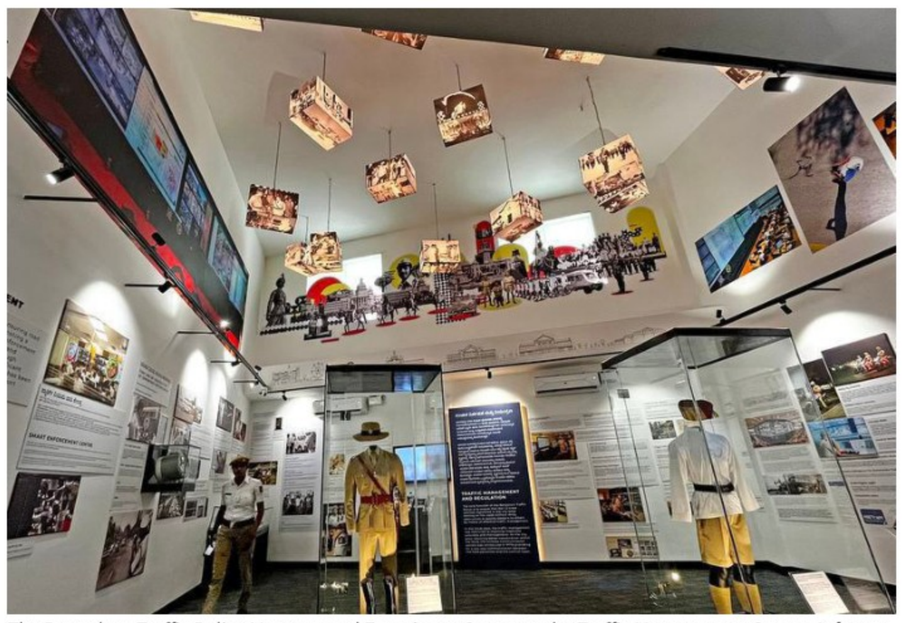
The newly opened interactive museum traces the history of traffic management in the city starting from the late 19th century and showcases the technological evolution of traffic policing



The Bangalore City Police Commissionerate was established in 1963. A separate traffic division was also created. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

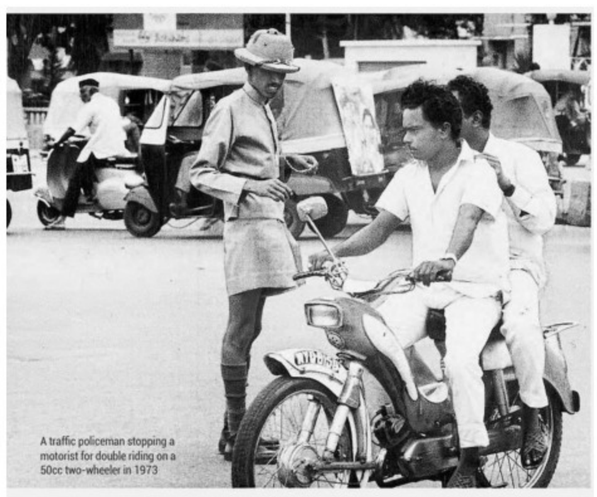


The then Home Minister R.M. Patil inaugurating the city's first traffic signal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

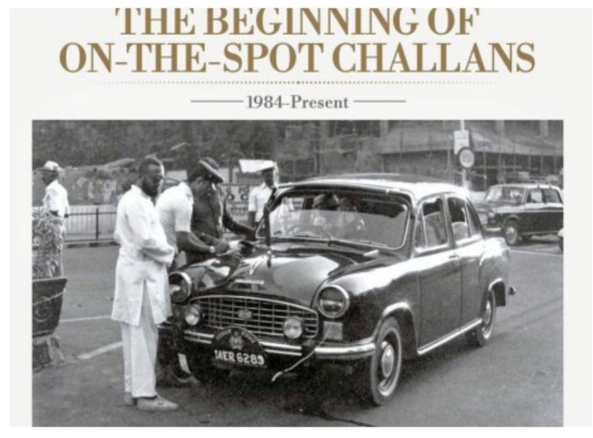


The Bengaluru Traffic Police Museum and Experience Centre at the Traffic Management Centre, Infantry Road, Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A traffic constable hand-signalling standing atop a pedestal in Cubbon Park in 1963. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



A traffic policeman stopping a motorist for allowing pillion-riding on a 50cc two-wheeler in 1973. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



In 1985, the government authorised traffic police officers to collect fines on the spot eliminating the need for violators to pay it in the court. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj

Traffic, like the weather, has become a conversation starter in Bengaluru, a city notorious for its congestion. For a population of 1.4 crore, there are 1.2 crore vehicles in the city, the most traffic-dense in the country and ranked the third slowest city in the world.

With over 44,000 junctions, 432 of them are signalled, over 9,000 cameras watch over the city's traffic, monitored at the high-tech Traffic Management Centre (TMC) and over 95% of the cases booked for violations are through contactless enforcement. The traffic police in their white shirts and khaki pants, the most ubiquitous persons on the city's streets make up 30% of the city's police force, highest for any Indian city.

Ever wondered when Bengaluru, once known to be a sleepy town and a pensioner's paradise, got its first traffic policeman on the street? As early as the 1880s. And how has the Bengaluru Traffic Police evolved from there to the Artificial Intelligence powered traffic management and enforcement today?

Over a century

Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has now opened a museum and an experience centre at the TMC, Infantry Road, detailing the evolution of traffic management in the city, from the 1880s to today, showcasing several photographs, archival materials, police uniforms, enforcement devices, bikes used by the traffic police in the city over the past century.

Though Captain E.D. Gompertz, first SP, Bangalore town, managed traffic across the whole town in the end of the 19th century, it was in 1908, with the enactment of Mysore Police Act, that traffic duties were for the first time entrusted to the civil police. They were asked to regulate traffic on the streets, ensure the public observed the rules of the road, prevent obstruction or nuisance committed by road users and keep the roads safe. The police had to also ensure that the vehicles carried and used lights between "half an hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise." In 1930, a separate traffic division was created within Bangalore Police.

A traffic constable at work using hand signals near Lido Theatre in 1969. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Days of hand signals

Then the police wore khaki shorts, and the first traffic signals were manual, where a traffic policeman stood on a two-foot-high pedestal at a circle and managed traffic through hand signals; umbrellas were introduced only in 1970. The first traffic signal was put up at N.R. Square in 1964, a year after B.N. Garudachar became the first DCP (Traffic) in the new Bangalore Police Commissionerate.

The first traffic signal in the country with a timer was adopted at Cauvery Theatre junction in 1999. In the 1950s itself, many roads like Royan Road, Avenue Road, Chickpet, Cottonpet and Commercial Street were one way.

Earlier, the traffic police were not authorised to collect fines on the spot when they caught violators.

Traffic umbrellas were installed at important junctions from 1970. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

There used to be mobile courts in police vans stationed across the city, where one had to go and pay the fine to get their vehicles back. From there, we have now progressed to contactless enforcement through cameras that spot the violations and auto-generate challans.

The traffic museum has on display the various devices the police have historically used to book violators, from the large radars to check speeding, alcometers, challan-vending machines, including Blackberry phones to body-worn cameras being used now. A walk through the museum convinces one that BTP has always been an early adopter of technology and has stayed ahead of the curve.

Experience centre

Housed in the museum is one-of-its-kind the state-of-the-art Traffic Experience Centre which offers an interactive experience, showcasing the technological evolution of traffic policing and road safety in the city. You can even test your driving skills through simulated traffic scenarios for hands-on learning. A real-time digital model of Bengaluru traffic on a video wall is a wonder to interact with. There are also several interactive quizzes and games on road safety for the children and adults.

M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), whose initiative the museum is, said that there was no record keeping of the history of BTP and they had to work with not only the State government but multiple newspapers including *The Hindu* to access their archives, source reports and photographs documenting the history of BTP.

"While celebrating the legacy of BTP, the initiative aims to use interactive displays and fun exhibits to help citizens understand the science and effort behind traffic management and inspire visitors, especially students, to appreciate and support traffic regulations and the people who enforce them," he said.

The museum will be open for the public between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on all working days.

Yemen S.

Scenes from the play 'Agni Aur Barkha'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The play with its timeless theme continues to remain relevant and a significant work in Indian theatre

Abhyaas Theatre, a Mumbai-based theatre company, is bringing to Bengaluru one of Girish Karnad's popular plays, *Agni aur Barkha*, on February 11.

Directed by Abhinav Grover, originally titled *Agni mattu Male,* the play was written by Girish Karnad in Kannada in the year 1994, later translated to Hindi as *Agni aur Barkha* in 1996 by Ram Gopal Bajaj and to English as *The Fire and The Rain* in 1997 by Karnad himself.

According to the synopsis of the play given by the troupe, among the most complex works of Karnad, this play is based on the myth of Yavakri from the ancient Indian epic Mahabharata and is an innovative reimagining of the epic's characters and events.

"It is a retelling of a lesser-known episode from the epic in which the Khandava forest is burned down by Agni, the fire god, with the help of Arjuna and Krishna to provide a sacrificial altar. Karnad combines multiple myths such as these to explore contemporary social, cultural, political, and psychological issues," said the synopsis.

Continued relevance

Known for its play-within-the-play method to depict the deception of brothers against brothers and its timeless themes, the play continues to remain a significant work in Indian theatre and has been performed in multiple languages and at numerous theatre festivals.

On being asked why the director chose to make the play though many theatre troupes have attempted it, Grover said that his team wanted a strong play that could reach all kinds of audiences. "Our last play before *Agni Aur Barkha* was *The Caretaker* by Harold Pinter. Though it is a very good play, it did not reach its potential, and we wanted to do a production that was very Indian. I have been in Udupi for a couple of years learning Yakshagana, and when the thought of this play hit me, I wanted to make it in Kannada. We made *Agni Mattu Male*, which had a good number of shows. However, most of them in the production were amateur theatre artistes, who got busy with work and other commitments. I did not want to drop the production, so I decided to make it again in Hindi with professional actors."

"There are a lot of Karnad plays that I could have made, but I wanted to explore a play which had a man-woman conflict and a balance of the masculine and feminine. This is a very challenging text. While we made the play, we were sure that it would not just be visually aesthetic, but we tried to question, find the sub-text and worked in a very old school method" he added.

Many versions later

Questioned on how Kannada audiences or audiences in Bengaluru, who have witnessed many versions of the play, would find this version different, the director said, "Every generation needs to know what Mahabharata, Shakespeare, Karnad, Mohan Rakesh and many other playwrights are for them and what these great epics are trying to say. If a classic has really stood the test of time, then it is the greatness of the classic. These sorts of plays give an opportunity to delve into playwrights like Karnad. We have kept the play extremely minimal and really tried to scale down the grandness of Karnad plays. Let the actors play out the drama and discover it, which will be something new for audiences."

The play is at Ranga Shankara, J.P. Nagar, at 7.30 p.m.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 10, 1975

Ban Order in City; Sequel to Bandh Call

Bangalore, The Police Commissioner of Bangalore, Mr. M.L. Chandrasekhar, has promulgated an order under Section 35 of the Police Act, banning the assembly of persons, meetings, etc., except those permitted and prohibiting the carrying of arms, lethal weapons and similar other specified acts, which might disturb peace in the city limits for the whole day tomorrow. The prohibitory order follows the plans of the Mahila (Women's) Bhoo Rakshana Kirya Samithi which has given a call for a Bangalore bandh on February 10 to back its agitation in support of its demand for the rights of women under the State Land Reforms Act.

Conducted Tour for Tourists

Bangalore, Feb. 9: The Managing Director of the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation, Mr. M.D. Mariputtanna, said here yesterday that the Corporation would soon introduce a regular one-day conducted tour covering Muddenahalli (the birthplace of the late Sir M. Visvesvaraiah), Nandi Hills, and Bannerghatta National Park. For the present, the tour would be organised on holidays. It might be made a daily tour depending on its popularity, he told newsmen after the conclusion of the third Southern Regional Tourism Minister's conference. He said the State Government had decided to hand over the management of the Modern Hindu Hotel in Mysore to the Corporation. The hotel would be renovated, and a three-star annexe would be added to it.

Pigeon peas on your plate

Reasons abound to add pigeon peas to your diet this season

'Tis the season Pigeon peas are a nutritious and delicious addition to one's diet. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rashmi Gopal Rao

Come winter and the local markets are flooded with a plethora of seasonal delights. From root vegetables such as turnips and greens such as *sarson* (mustard leaves) to a multitude of legumes and beans, there is no dearth of delectable produce during the season.

Luscious *toor* beans or pigeon peas are one such winter delight. "Pigeon peas known as *togarikalu* in Kannada, *lili tuver* in Gujarati and *turichya dhanya* in Marathi, usually flower during the months of October and November and mature about a month later into the green pods we see in the market," says Rupa Balachandar, food writer and TV show host.

The mature pods are a deep green in colour while the riper ones are almost brown with the peas inside sporting a pinkish-purple hue with specks of brown. The crop that is grown in tropical and subtropical climates, is extremely popular in Karnataka, although it is sometimes overshadowed by the ubiquitous *avarekai* (hyacinth beans)!

Power packed

Fresh green pigeon peas are nutrient-rich in composition. "These peas are naturally low in fat and are an excellent source of protein, making them a valuable option for vegetarians and vegans," says Hitesh Pant, Executive Chef, Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel. The peas are a rich source of vitamins and minerals including Vitamin C and potassium.

"Fresh *toor* peas are high in dietary fibre which aids in digestion and promotes gut health. They are also a good source of vitamins and minerals, including folate, iron and magnesium, contributing to overall wellbeing and energy levels," adds Rupa.

It is believed the peas positively impact blood sugar and metabolic health. "The complex carbohydrates in pigeon peas provide a steady release of energy, which is beneficial for managing diabetes and maintaining overall metabolic health," says Chef Sachin Singh, Sous Chef-Indian cuisine, Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel. The peas are slightly denser in texture than green peas and are characterised by a subtly sweet and nutty flavour.

Versatile ingredient

Pigeon peas lend themselves to a variety of cooking techniques and cuisines. "Fresh pigeon peas are a highly adaptable ingredient that can be included in all three meals of the day in various forms whether boiled, steamed, or added to dishes such as salads, stews and soups," adds Sachin Singh.

Boiling them with a pinch of salt turns them into a healthy evening snack. Pigeon peas can be prepared as *sundal*, a traditional South Indian snack where peas are boiled until tender, tempered with mustard seeds, curry leaves, green chilies, and then served with a sprinkling of grated coconut.

Pigeon peas can be incorporated into rich and flavourful curries too. A popular preparation involves cooking the beans with a coconut-based gravy that includes tomatoes, onions and green chillies, along with aromatic spices.

"From curries, dry *sabzi* and sambar to khichdi and even paratha, this is one versatile bean which also makes a flavourful addition to salads and pigeon pea and avocado toast," adds Rahul Istwal, Executive Chef, Angsana Oasis Spa and Resort.

Signature dishes

Pigeon peas are an integral part of the elaborate *undhiyu* from Gujarat. It is traditionally prepared in earthen pots with winter vegetables such as purple yam, green beans and pigeon peas among other seasonal offerings.

"I enjoy digging into a simple *hasi togari kalu usli* – a North Karnataka dish that takes almost no time to prepare. It tastes divine with *jaloda roti* and a generous helping of *ranjaka* (kempu chutney). However my all-time favourite is *tuvar na thotha*, a gravy that is spicy, garlicy and eaten hot off the stove. Generously sprinkled with *sev*, finely chopped onions and a squeeze of lime, it is served with toasted, buttered, old-fashioned white bread and sweet jalebis to offset the intensely savoury spicy heat from the curry," adds Rupa.

Flavoured rice similar to *vangi bath* albeit with pigeon peas is a favourite in Bengaluru apart from *olya turichya amti* which is a nourishing soupy preparation native to Maharashtra. Fresh pigeon beans are ground with spices such as coriander, dried coconut, onions, ginger, garlic and green chillies, and then boiled and served with a dash of lime. Roasted pearl millet powder is added to give a unique texture to the dish.

"*Togri kalu rasam* is a favourite in our household during the season and is prepared by boiling the peas and cooking them in a ground mixture of cumin, coriander, green chillies and fresh coconut. Served with a tempering of mustard and curry leaves, this one is a great win in winter," says Bengaluru-based home maker Parimala SA.

Regal ride The last Maharaja of Mysore Sri Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar at the Dasara celebrations inside the palace in 1960. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Exploring the nature of a polymath

The Bangalore International Centre in Domlur will host a special event honouring the life and legacy of Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar, the 25th and last Maharaja of Mysore. The evening, scheduled from 6.30 pm to 8.30pm, promises to explore Maharaja's multifaceted contributions to art, music and governance.

The event will begin with a 10-minute film by MAYA Films, offering a glimpse into the extraordinary life of the Maharaja. Known for his profound love for music, Wadiyar's reign was marked by a rare fusion of administrative brilliance and artistic passion.

The Maharaja's appreciation for both Carnatic and Western classical music transcended borders, leaving an indelible mark on Mysore's cultural heritage.

BV Sudhamani, a retired Professor of History and author of an exhaustive two-volume biography on Wadiyar, will deliver a talk in Kannada, shedding light on his visionary leadership during India's transition to independence.

Deepti Navaratna, a musician-neuroscientist and author of *The Maverick Maharaja*, will follow with an English lecture on Wadiyar's musical genius, exploring his enduring influence on the arts.

The Maverick Maharaja came out in 2022 and in it, Deepti details the Maharaja's reign which was marked by an integration of traditional and progressive ideas.

The session will conclude with a panel discussion featuring Sudhamani, Deepti, and Maya Chandra, the founder of MAYA Films. Maya, whose documentaries have won accolades at film festivals, has dedicated her career to preserving the rich history of the Mysore Kingdom.

The evening will wrap up with an interactive Q&A session, allowing the audience to engage with the speakers.

This event is free and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. RSVP is required. For more information about the event, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Donning sustainability

Sumitra Nair

As a teen, Jasna Moidu would buy clothes that were a couple of sizes bigger. "Those always felt comfortable," says Moidu, founder of Tree, a clothing label. Founded in 2016, the label which makes wearable designs, has, at its core, been working with handwoven cotton.

In 2024, the 34-year-old founder-designer moved the label's base to Bengaluru. The young label, however, did not start out with handloom textiles.

"It has been a learning curve," says Jasna, who has always tweaked ready-to-wear clothes to make them 'her own'.

"Nearly all the women in my family have been fashion forward. We would always get our clothes stitched. Then, there would always be a yearly trip to Khadi Gram Udyog Bhavan," says Jasna, who launched the brand in her hometown, Kozhikode.

The brand was launched as a passion project. Over the years, the brand has delved more into using weaves and craft from different states for its collection. Their Kanmani collection comprising all black outfits, used jamdani fabric, while the Begumpura collection features Rabari hand-embroidery of Kutch, Gujarat.

This was not the case when the brand started out. After a lot of research, in 2019, the label started working with handlooms and crafts for a collection called HOPE. She used jamdani fabric for separates featuring prints on white.

"'There was never a night that could defeat sunrise of hope,' was the emotion behind the collection,' says Jasna.

The young brand has dressed celebrities including actors Tillotama Shome, Kani Kusruti, Anna Ben, Rima Kallingal and Aparna Balamurali as well as director Anand Gandhi.

One with Nature A creation by designer Jasna Moidu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While promoting art and craft is at the heart of the label, it also wants to represent an inclusive society. "Style is personal and everything personal, tends to become political at some point," Jasna says.

The 'Knots of Liberation,' collection, for example, consists of unisex shirts featuring work and quotes by social critic, author and educator, Bell Hooks.

The collection was a collaboration with textile designer Anuradha Bhaumick. When the label was launched, they did not have standardised sizes – they aimed to be size inclusive or rather, did not want their customers to be defined by sizes.

"For practical reasons, we worked on it. Most of our clothing falls in the anti-fit category, it aims for comfort," Jasna says, adding that the label has strived to be responsible and inclusive.

"The store will not feature just Tree. It will feature other brands that share the same ethos of sustainable fashion," Jasna says. She credits her mother for the unusual, whimsical name, 'Tree'. "My mother loves nature. Not in the a-few-plants-in-your-yard-way but really loves being one with it."

Tree's last collection was Madras, which drew inspiration from the Madras checks, *kuppivalas* (glass bangles) and *pattu pavadais* (silk skirt). The colours used in the collection are bright– blues, purples, pinks and greens, to reflect Chennai's colourful culture. The collection uses the plaid pattern embellished with Kantha stitch.

Sitara, another collection, speaks of the beauty of flowers that bloom under the night sky and uses handwoven cotton with custom block prints.

The label is available at a multi-brand store Malar, at Kormangala, Bengaluru.

CITYBEATS

Sweet themes

FEBRUARY 13
Magnolia Bakery has introduced a limited-edition Valentine's Day special, which will be available from February 13 to 16. This year's collection includes strawberry jamboree, truffle cupcake, floral cupcakes, chocolate-covered strawberry brownie bites, and more.
At all Magnolia Bakery outlets and online. Go to @magnoliabakery.india for online orders.

Pitcher perfect

ONGOING
Toast & Tonic has a specially curated menu featuring handcrafted cocktails and small plates for Valentine's Day. The menu, which will be available till February 14, includes cocktail pitchers, sharing platters and a range of desserts. The ambience is also designed to suit the romantic mood.
At Toast & Tonic Wood Street, Ashok Nagar. Call 8976733443.

Mad vibes

ONGOING
Mad Over Donuts has launched a limited edition of Pookie Berry & Pookie Peri for Valentine's Day. The Pookie Berry variant comes filled with strawberry custard, coated in pink chocolate, while Pookie Peri comes with a peri-peri sauce and glaze and a touch of white chocolate.
Available at all Mad Over Donuts outlets, Swiggy and Zomato.

Minister holds BC leaders' meeting to clear air on survey

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Ponnam Prabhakar

As the Backward Classes organisations pointed out lapses in the Telangana Socio, Caste, Economic, Employment and Political Survey, the State's Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Sunday engaged with prominent BC (Backward Classes) leaders and organisations, to clear their apprehensions.

The Minister elicited opinions of the BC leaders in view of doubts and 'misleading campaigning' by the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He said their concerns would be taken up with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

He told the leaders that this was a historic occasion as Telangana was the only State that had taken up the survey to profile social, economic, educational, employment, political and caste statuses.

The meeting was attended by R. Krishnaiah, Vakulabharanam Krishnamohan Rao, former IAS officer Chiranjeevulu and Congress leaders – MP Suresh Shetkar, MLA Veerapalli Shankar; former MPs K. Keshava Rao, Madhu Yashki and Anjan Kumar Yadav, apart from BC Commission Chairman G. Niranjan, among others.

"One needs a lot of conviction and the desire to ensure social justice. Under the guidance of Rahul Gandhi, the Telangana government completed this exercise that has been done never before in Independent India," the Minister told *The Hindu*.

During the meeting, the BC leaders expressed their opinions on several issues including the reported reduction in the BC population. Some of their suggestions included conducting a special drive to collect the details of the families that could not participate in the survey due to various factors.

The Minister informed them that since the BC Commission did not have enough infrastructure to complete the exercise of such massive scale, so the survey was conducted by the Planning Department.

Former Chairman of the BC Commission, Vakulabharanam Krishnamohan Rao told *The Hindu* that the meeting gave assurance that the lapses in the survey would be covered. He welcomed the government's move to take them into confidence. This will clear doubts and instill confidence, Mr. Rao said appreciating the effort.

Parents of Walayar girls to be tried for heinous crimes

Law puts abettors on the same footing as the offender, and the parents, who have been charged with abetment, are likely to be tried for all offences committed by the main accused in the case

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The Justice for Walayar Kids Forum staging a protest in front of the Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram on January 5. S. MAHINSHA

The parents of the two minor girls found dead in Walayar will be prosecuted for all the offences alleged to have been committed by the prime accused, including aggravated form of rape, unnatural sex, sexual assault on a child and penetrative sex, besides other specific charges levelled against them.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has also booked the mother and father for abetment under Section 109 of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 16 and 17 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for abetting a sexual offence against a child.

The law puts an abettor on the same footing as the offender. Hence, the parents will be tried for all the offences committed by the accused in the case, say judicial sources.

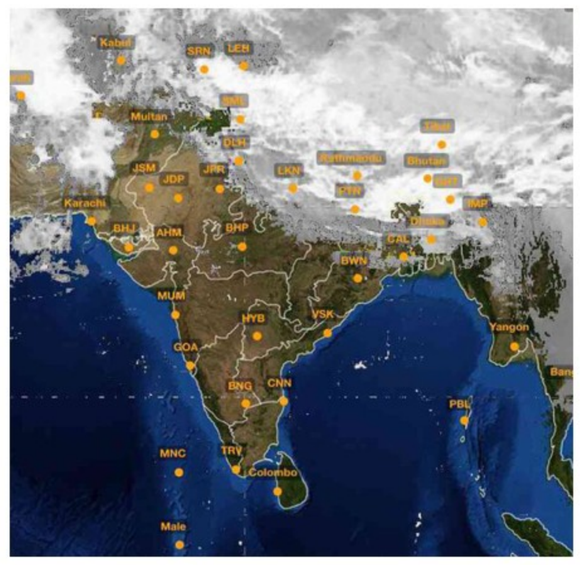
The CBI chargesheet noted that the mother abetted the first accused in committing sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault and penetrative sexual assault on her younger daughter after knowing well that he had raped and sexually assaulted her elder daughter.

The first accused has been booked for aggravated form of rape committed by those in positions of power, committing unnatural sex and assault against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty under the IPC. He will be tried under Section 8 of the POCSO Act for the sexual assault committed by people in positions of power or trust, and Section 5(n) for the penetrative sexual assault by someone who is living in the same household.

All the offences will be slapped against the mother and father, the second and third accused in the case, sources indicated.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Dense fog conditions very likely in isolated pockets of Gangetic West Bengal and south Odisha. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.8	11.0	Kozhikode	—	35.0	24.5
Ahmedabad	—	33.8	14.9	Kurnool	—	36.4	21.4
Aizawl	—	28.4	7.5	Lucknow	—	28.1	9.3
Allahabad	—	28.9	9.4	Madurai	—	34.0	20.1
Bengaluru	—	30.5	17.4	Mangaluru	—	33.9	21.4
Bhopal	—	30.4	10.6	Mumbai	—	32.0	22.0
Bhubaneswar	—	32.5	18.4	Mysuru	—	32.5	—
Chandigarh	—	26.8	9.8	New Delhi	—	27.2	9.0
Chennai	—	31.8	22.3	Patna	65.0	25.3	13.2
Coimbatore	—	32.8	20.2	Port Blair	—	31.0	25.4
Dehradun	—	27.2	8.6	Puducherry	—	31.0	22.5
Gangtok	—	14.5	7.7	Pune	—	36.1	—
Goa	—	—	—	Raipur	—	32.7	12.6
Guwahati	—	27.3	13.0	Ranchi	—	26.7	10.2
Hubballi	—	34.0	19.0	Shillong	—	18.5	5.7
Hyderabad	—	32.4	20.1	Shimla	—	20.7	9.8
Imphal	—	25.9	6.1	Srinagar	—	16.6	0.8
Jaipur	—	28.0	10.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.6	21.8
Kochi	—	31.6	24.2	Tiruchi	—	32.5	21.4
Kohima	—	19.2	7.0	Vijayawada	—	32.3	22.6
Kolkata	—	27.2	15.1	Visakhapatnam	—	32.2	24.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	247	13	55	66	
Bengaluru	12	67	13	154	122	
Chennai	16	—	45	115	84	
Delhi	17	70	64	300	246	
Hyderabad	6	121	7	150	149	
Kolkata	6	53	32	186	146	
Lucknow	14	94	65	246	185	
Mumbai	7	—	40	212	212	
Pune	—	154	61	199	126	
Visakhapatnam	9	49	18	139	134	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nalbari, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 384 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 31.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BRS demands a fresh caste survey, says BC population undercounted

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has demanded that the Congress government in Telangana re-conduct the caste census. The party says that the Backward Classes (BCs) population has been undercounted as the survey was carried out in haste to deceive the community.

Speaking to pressperssons on Sunday after meeting the party's BC leaders, BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao demanded that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy apologise for underreporting the BC population. Mr. Rama Rao said the State government had reduced the BC population by about 5.5% (22 lakh), compared with their population enumerated in the integrated household survey (Samagra Kutumba Survey) conducted by the BRS government in 2014.

The Congress government has betrayed the BCs on the 42% reservation promise made before the Assembly election, he added. He said the BCs were concerned that their share in the six guarantees of the Congress government, welfare schemes, ration cards, sanction of houses and so on would come down with their numbers shown as reduced in the survey.

The BCs are demanding a resurvey to be done in a scientific manner. Instead of admitting the mistakes, the bigwigs of the government were finding faults with the data of the Samagra Kutumba Survey, the MLA said.

He said the BRS would take this issue to the public and continue its fight until justice was served to the BC community.

Catching dawn

Starting fresh: A fisherman casting his net close to the sea shore as the sun rises at Jalaripeta in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. V. RAJU

Women police officials to guard ladies coaches on Southern Railway trains

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Women police personnel will do surprise checks, travel in all express trains across the zone.

The Government Railway Police (GRP) will deploy women police personnel to guard ladies compartments on almost all the trains running across Southern Railway. The GRP is working with the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to prevent the entry/travel of male passengers in ladies coaches by stationing security personnel at all stations.

The move comes after a pregnant passenger was sexually assaulted in a train on Thursday. Southern Railway said the suspect, who had been drunk, had entered the ladies compartment. When the four-month pregnant victim resisted his assault, she was pushed out of the moving train near Katpadi in Vellore. She was rescued by local villagers and rushed to a hospital, but suffered a miscarriage.

With the help of CCTV footage, investigators apprehended the suspect within 12 hours.

Inspector-General of Police, GRP, A.G. Babu said that instructions had been given to deploy women police constables at all railway stations to ensure no male passenger entered or travelled in ladies coaches. Besides conducting surprise checks, women police will also travel in all express trains across the zone, he said.

Since ladies compartments are attached either in the front or rear end of trains, police parties would be stationed accordingly to keep a close vigil.

In the last 24 hours, about 275 persons found to be moving in a suspicious manner in trains or stations were questioned and their antecedents verified. Cases under preventive sections of the law were registered against a dozen men, Mr. Babu said.

The Railway police distributed pamphlets listing precautionary measures to be taken while travelling alone, and numbers to be contacted during emergencies. Passengers travelling in ladies compartments would be sensitised on the 'do's and don'ts'. Where there was a shortage of manpower, the GRP is requesting deployment of RPF personnel for escort or surveillance duties, he added.

Southern Railway Chief Public Relations Officer M. Senthamil Selvan said that CCTV networks were being installed at important stations and trains for monitoring the movement of suspicious persons.

Stalin announces ₹3L for woman who was pushed off train

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday announced a solatium of ₹3 lakh to a woman who was pushed off a moving train by a man during an attempt to sexually assault her near Katpadi.

Medical expenses

Mr. Stalin also announced that the Tamil Nadu government would bear her medical treatment expenses.

In a statement, the CM said that he has instructed officials to ensure proper medical treatment to the survivor. The accused person in connection with the offence, has been arrested, he said.

The survivor is being extended medical treatment in a private hospital.

On Thursday last, a 36-year-old pregnant woman was pushed out of a moving train near Katpadi in Vellore district, when she resisted an attempt to sexually assault her.

The next day, a 31-year-old history-sheeter was arrested by the Government Railway Police (GRP), Jolarpet, in connection with the incident.

14 T.N. fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan Navy

The Hindu Bureau
RAMESWARAM

Vexed issue: The fishermen from Ramanathapuram who were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on charges of poaching.

Fourteen fishermen from Ramanathapuram were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on charges of poaching, and two trawlers were seized in the early hours of Sunday.

Fisheries Department officials told *The Hindu* that they had issued 427 tokens at the harbour on Saturday, and the fishermen were expected to return to the shore on Sunday evening.

When 14 fishermen on two vessels were fishing, the Sri Lankan Navy detained them. They were taken to the naval port and handed over to the authorities for further legal action.

Over 50 fishermen had been arrested in less than a fortnight, and only a few days ago, members of the fishermen community staged a protest over the issue.

Fishermen leader Sesu Raja said they would convene a meeting on Monday and decide the next course of action.

In the meantime, he said the Union government should intervene and hold talks with the Sri Lankan government. "This alone will bring about a permanent solution," Mr. Sesu Raja said.

A high-level meeting with the fishermen associations in Sri Lanka's Northern Province should be arranged to facilitate direct talks with the fishermen from Tamil Nadu, he added. "The Sri Lankan government should allow us into Katchatheevu three days a week. The respective governments should enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for 50 years," Mr. Sesu Raja said.

Hefty fines

In recent times, the Sri Lankan government has not only arrested the fishermen from Tamil Nadu, but also imposed fines ranging from 50,000 to 200,000 Sri Lankan Rupees.

Many families were in a state of depression and needed psychological assistance, said Antony, a 59-year-old fisherman from Thangachimadam. Some had even threatened to end their lives, he added.

BJP State president K. Annamalai sought the intervention of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar over the latest arrests.

In a letter to the Union Minister, he pointed out that there had been an unprecedented increase in arrests of fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy since October 2024, when Anura Kumara Dissanayake assumed office as President of Sri Lanka.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104, TeleMANAS 14416, and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050).

Kerala man evacuated from Russia found dead

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A youth from Kerala who was tricked into going to Russia to fight the war against Ukraine and subsequently brought back to New Delhi after the intervention of the Indian Embassy in Russia last year, was found dead in Thiruvananthapuram.

David Muthappan, 24, was found dead in a lodge room at Neyyattinkara on Thursday. His family had been suffering financial stress after he was duped into going to Russia by illegal recruiters who had charged ₹3.5 lakh as a fee.

EDUCATIONPLUS

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From brain drain to brain gain

India requires a multi-pronged strategy to transform into a global study destination not just for its own students but also for international learners

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

V Ramgopal Rao

The recent *Open Doors Report 2024* revealed a telling trend: India has become the largest source of international students in the U.S.; with a record-breaking 3,31,602 students enrolled in 2023-24.

Indian students pursuing higher education abroad are making substantial financial contributions to international economies. In 2022, their direct spending – encompassing tuition fees, housing, and living expenses – was estimated at approximately $47 billion. This figure is projected to escalate to as much as $70 billion by 2025.

While this reflects the ambition and global outlook of India's youth, it raises an important question: Why are so many of India's brightest minds compelled to seek education abroad? India aspires to emerge as a global leader in education and innovation.

Yet, the student exodus underscores significant challenges in our higher education ecosystem. The answer lies in transforming India into a global study destination; not just for our own students but also for international learners. This transformation, however, requires a cohesive, multi-pronged strategy addressing education quality, financial sustainability, institutional autonomy, and capacity building.

Diversified financial model

The core challenge lies in India's disproportionate reliance on tuition fees in privately funded institutions and government grants in public-funded ones as the primary sources of revenue. In globally renowned universities, tuition fees contribute only 15-20% of the total revenue.

In a stark contrast, Indian institutions often rely on tuition for over 80% of their funding. Similarly, government-funded institutions draw nearly 90% of their revenue from public funds. Both models are unsustainable and lack the scalability required to meet the growing demands of the education sector.

Ideally, tuition fees should contribute only 30-40% of total revenues. A sliding fee structure, coupled with merit-based scholarships funded by endowments, can help ensure access to quality education without compromising affordability.

Endowments, a mainstay of global universities, should form 30-35% of the revenue base. Encouraging philanthropy from alumni and corporate donors, supported by favourable tax policies and streamlined regulations, is essential to building these endowments.

Additionally, research overheads can contribute 20-25% of revenues through industry-academia collaborations and global research grants. By prioritising applied research that addresses real-world challenges, institutions can generate funding while making meaningful contributions to society. The remaining 10-15% of revenues can come from alternative sources such as executive education programmes, intellectual property commercialisation, and investments in start-ups.

This balanced approach reduces the financial burden on students while ensuring that institutions have the resources to invest in research, innovation, and global competitiveness.

Capacity and quality

Financial sustainability is only one piece of the puzzle. Scaling capacity and enhancing quality are equally critical. The government alone cannot meet the growing demand for higher education.

Public-private collaboration is central to this effort. Private institutions, supported by Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, must play a greater role.

India needs to establish new world-class universities while upgrading existing ones with state-of-the-art infrastructure. A vibrant research and innovation ecosystem must be built by fostering industry-academia partnerships, increasing R and D funding, and creating mechanisms for monetising intellectual property. Flexible, interdisciplinary academic programmes aligned with global standards can further enhance the appeal of Indian institutions.

To improve the diversity and quality of education, Indian universities should actively recruit international faculty and forge global academic collaborations. Such measures would not only raise the global profile of Indian institutions but also expose students to a truly international learning environment.

Autonomy and accountability

An enabling policy environment is essential to drive these reforms. Institutional autonomy, as emphasised by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, is a cornerstone of this transformation. Universities need the freedom to innovate in curriculum design, resource allocation, and partnerships with global institutions. Autonomy empowers institutions to respond dynamically to changing global and domestic needs, aligning strategies with global benchmarks.

Government policies must also encourage the creation and growth of endowments. Substantial tax benefits and flexibility in fund management can incentivise philanthropy. However, with autonomy must come accountability. Independent audits and professional fund management practices should be mandated to build stakeholder trust and ensure transparency.

Globally, universities are moving toward zero-tuition models sustained by endowments and research revenues. India, too, must aim for a future where quality education is universally accessible, rather than an aspirational privilege.

With these measures, India can reverse the brain drain and position itself as a global hub for education. The goal is not merely to retain Indian students but to attract learners from around the world. The time to act is now. By taking bold, transformative steps today, we can ensure that India's brightest minds not only stay but thrive, and that global talent aspires to call India their alma mater.

Views expressed are personal.

The writer is Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani Group of Institutions, and former Director, IIT Delhi.

The Living Lab Journal

The University of Dundee, the U.K., has launched The Living Lab Journal, which focuses on sustainability and environment and brings together research and new ideas.

It aims to bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world practice.

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

Stay positive

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

I have graduated in Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering. What are the career opportunities? Should I take the GATE? Sailesh

Dear Sailesh,

Opportunities exist across shipbuilding and repair, offshore engineering, marine hydrodynamics, marine structures, and ocean engineering.

You can explore maritime consultancy, academia, research and development, and government agencies like the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, or port authorities. A good GATE score can boost your career prospects and open doors to M.Tech. programmes and PSU jobs in shipping, defence, and oil and gas sectors.

I am in Class 12 (Science). I took Science because my parents insisted. I am a History enthusiast and wish to be an archaeologist but I am uncertain about job opportunities. I am preparing for the engineering entrance exams but am not sure I will be a good engineer even if I clear the exams. I also want to prepare for the UPSC. I feel stuck and confused.Aachal

Dear Aachal,

Is it possible to talk to your parents about your disinterest Engineering with the help of a teacher or trusted adult? If this doesn't work, ask to meet a therapist or career counsellor as soon as possible. Your passion for history is a great foundation for a career in Archaeology. Interdisciplinary fields like Archaeological Science (a combination of Archaeology and sciences such as Chemistry, Physics, and Geology) or Heritage Conservation (preserving and restoring historical sites and artefacts) are also interesting. These will also help you with the UPSC exams. Other job opportunities exist across academia, teaching, research, journalism, content writing and so on. Stay positive and make time for hobbies, exercise, and relaxation.

I am in Class 12 and overwhelmed by the vast number of options available. I am interested in filmmaking, especially cinematography, but my parents want me to do a "useful" degree. I like science, films and reading. Anbuselvan

Dear Anbuselvan,

It is important to balance your passions with practical considerations. Explore film-related courses and research film schools in India and abroad, their courses and specialisations various aspects of filmmaking. Consult a career counsellor to assess your core interests. What course do your parents think will be "useful"? Could a "useful degree" in Sound Engineering, Electronics or Computer Science Engineering be good enough? Will this interest you? Do you have a portfolio to showcase your passion? Have you worked on short films, photography, or other creative projects? If not, then maybe consider a "useful" degree for the immediate future and pursue your passion later.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

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Aarav Bharathwaj — Horrors Of The Wizard
Genre - Science Fiction
Kshipra Moreker — Mathemagic
Jiya Yadav — The Quest For Elysium
Aaditya Jaiswal — Timeless Travels
Amyra Wadhwa — Aliens Invade School
Aveer Arora — A Debt Repaid
Nivandathi Venkatesh — Stranded
Poorvi Gogineni — The Orbs Of Wonder
Yakshith Rayudu — The Tempest Within
Angela Sarin — The Fascinating Discovery
Sahana Samanta — The Echoes Of Glass
Genre - Science & Technology
Ravyanshi — The Iron Key Fusion & Fact
Iniya Pragati — Water On Moon
K V Dhiyanesh — The Super Hero
Kshipra Moreker — Lead The Campaign - Stop Lead
Mayanshi Parthasarathi — Exploring The Universe
Devansh Patil — Fragments Of Starlit Odyssey
Sabarish — Infinity's Edge
Arpita Ghosh — Project Blackverse
Dharshan V — Intergalactic Pizza Delivery
Anvi Bahl — Beyond The Edge Of Light
Genre - Emotions & Feelings
Virat Sai Manjunath — Sprouts Of Success
Keya Hatkar — Book On How To Write A Book
Hargun Grover — Hana Says A 'Sci-Fi'
Gul Mehra — Being Kind
Noorjya Sayyed — Believe In Yourself
Jiya Patel — Dancing Through Dreams
Mudra Chaudhari — DEJA VU
Anishka Maheshwari — Echoes Of A Soldier's Heart
Noyonika Banerjee — I Have Faith
Alicia Saha — Finding Home In Two Countries

Mass revenge

AAP's welfarism was a failed attempt to sidestep the ideological divide

The outcome of the Delhi Assembly elections is less about the expansion of the BJP and more about the dramatic collapse of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The BJP has returned to power after over 26 years, while the AAP, a political force that rose spectacularly in 2013, has been swept away. However, this shift does not signify a sudden change in Delhi's political landscape. Since 2014, the BJP has maintained significant control over governance through the Lieutenant Governor, municipal corporations, the Union Urban Development Ministry, and the Delhi Police (Union Home Ministry). Additionally, it has won all seven Lok Sabha seats across three general elections. AAP's rise was rooted in its appeal to Delhi's middle class, transitioning from an anti-corruption movement into a political entity that initially captivated voters with its fresh rhetoric against the traditional political establishment. However, its governance style soon became synonymous with reckless populism, a cynical approach to politics, and an increasingly coarse political discourse. While it sought to consolidate power through unchecked welfarism, the effectiveness of governance declined, and its credibility began to erode. The final blow came when serious corruption allegations surfaced, culminating in revelations that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had spent approximately ₹52.7 crore of public funds to refurbish his official residence. This exposed the contradiction between AAP's founding ideals and its actions while in power, leaving its integrity in tatters.

For the BJP, this decisive victory presents fresh opportunities. The party can now focus on improving infrastructure, civic amenities, and governance, areas that could help it score quick wins. Its grip on the Hindi heartland is now reinforced as Delhi's political and economic dynamics are tied with those of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Haryana. Meanwhile, Mr. Kejriwal's ambitions of positioning himself as a national alternative to Prime Minister Narendra Modi have suffered a severe setback if not a complete collapse. His strategy of securing Muslim voters as a captive support base has also faltered. More broadly, AAP's downfall has implications for the non-BJP Opposition. The assumption that the 2024 general election results signalled a fundamental shift against the BJP now appears unfounded. The Opposition parties must reassess their strategies if they hope to challenge the ruling party effectively. The Congress, despite drawing a blank, might be encouraged by AAP's defeat, but it could also face challenges to its helming of the INDIA bloc as it faces criticism for not helping build a common front against the BJP.

A gift horse's teeth

Higher allocations are not enough to boost scientific research

The Budget 2025-26 announcements suggest a potential bonanza for scientific research and development. The Finance Minister outlined ₹20,000 crore budgetary support for developing small modular reactors, with the goal of readying five such reactors by 2033. Another major initiative is the Research, Development, and Innovation fund, included in the Department of Science and Technology (DST)'s expected expenditure. This substantial allocation is expected to benefit start-ups and sunrise sectors, though these remain undefined. The expectation is that private sector entities will receive financial support to boost R&D, a domain historically dominated by government spending. India's R&D landscape has long suffered from low private sector participation. While government funding has driven most scientific advancements, private investment in research has remained inadequate. Currently, private sector R&D contribution is only 36%; overall R&D spending in India was 0.64% of GDP in 2020, the lowest since 1995. Over the last five years, business enterprises have accounted for around 40% of government R&D expenditure. Public sector R&D units allocated only 0.30% of their sales turnover to research, compared to 1.46% by the private sector in 2020-21, according to DST estimates.

The government's ₹20,000 crore infusion hikes the DST's total budgetary allocation to around ₹28,000 crore, over three times last year's allocation and seven times the actual expenditure in 2023-24. These figures are encouraging, but a key concern is whether such massive investments can be effectively absorbed. Despite India's strengths in technology-driven sectors such as fuel, metallurgy, pharmaceuticals, textiles, IT, and biotechnology, returns from core R&D and intellectual property generation are still meagre. Though the government has launched ambitious missions in quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and other cutting-edge technologies, the supporting infrastructure remains inadequate. India still lacks the essential building blocks, chipsets, semiconductor fabs, a skilled engineering workforce, and a strong innovation ecosystem, to fully capitalise on these investments. Without these, the lofty targets set for R&D growth risk falling short. The government must present a clear road map on how private sector entities can access these funds and what tangible benefits the public can expect. Increased funding alone will not guarantee success unless structural bottlenecks are addressed. To truly transform India into a research powerhouse, the focus must shift to strengthening foundational infrastructure, incentivising private innovation, and ensuring long-term, sustainable engagement from industry leaders.

Keeping a watch on the growing arc of violence

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

The present period is proving to be an unpredictable one for most parts of the world. Violence is raging across parts of Europe and in West Asia, while several other regions are facing internecine conflicts to varying degrees. At the risk of repetition, it can be said that the world order after 1945 has broken down irretrievably.

The prolonged war in Ukraine, alongside the wanton targeting of innocent civilians in Gaza and West Asia by the Israeli armed forces, underscore a reality, *viz.*, that the United Nations Security Council and the International Court of Justice have become mere bystanders, if not complicit, in most events of this nature. For political philosophers who still hark back to an earlier era, it should be evident that principles enunciated by the Dutch philosopher, Hugo Grotius (1583-1645), have today become part of the 'detritus of history'. There is no longer any "common moral community" governed by "eternal and immutable ideas of right and wrong". What is apparent today is a 'waste-land of morality'.

Subterranean activity

It would indeed be a gross misjudgment if countries that are in the driving seat today, specially those active in West Asia, were to believe that their current actions are likely to contribute to permanent peace. The war in Gaza and Lebanon may have given Israel, and at one stage removed the United States, an impression that 'peace is at hand' in West Asia. Also, that they had effectively undermined the Iran-led 'Axis of Resistance', and considerably reduced Tehran's influence in the region. Viewed dispassionately, current events can at best be viewed as a 'pyrrhic victory', the impact of which is uncertain. A great deal of subterranean activity is meanwhile beginning to be seen, the outcome of which is unlikely to lead to a lasting peace.

First and foremost, Islamist terrorism has hardly been blunted; nor have other major concerns which have existed for decades abated. Calls for 'global jihad' and activities by 'lone wolf' attackers can still be heard. More important, today's Islamist terrorists are being radicalised online, and have not, by any means, been contained. The belief, hence, that Islamist terrorism is no longer a serious threat would be incorrect.

Most experts hew to the view that Islamist terrorism 3.0 is still alive and threatening. It is multifaceted and decentralised, and is increasingly digitally empowered, making it an evolving threat to global security – possibly more so than in earlier decades. The weakening of al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (ISIS), temporarily, should not, hence, contribute to a belief that Islamist terrorism had weakened irretrievably. Rather, the signs are that it is rapidly adapting to digital terrorism, spreading extremist ideologies through social media, and provisioning for an increased role through decentralised groups. In essence, it is evolving into a different avatar. Dealing with this new phase of terrorism can prove difficult. Finding the right method to deal with this problem will not be easy.

> While matters relating to new terror methods and terror attacks could still be evolving, the warnings should not be ignored

Islamist terrorism has been evolving for a long time. If 1979 is regarded as a critical turning point in the evolution of a new wave of Islamist militancy, then a quick look at its evolving dimension over the past five decades may prove useful in finding a solution. It was in 1979 that a new brand of militant Islam reared its head – in Afghanistan, it was the die-hard Sunni brand, and in Iran it was the Shia variant. Both, separately though not jointly, were seeking to bring about a general uprising throughout the Muslim world and even beyond, aimed at overthrowing infidel and pro-western regimes. Radicalisation on the Sunni side resulted in the formation of al-Qaeda and the IS (mainly in Syria), each talking of global jihad. The jihad wave waxed and waned over the years, and while al-Qaeda concentrated its activities outside of West Asia, the IS remained essentially confined to West Asia.

While jihadism has, by no means, been defeated for now, it does appear that the internal dynamics of global jihad may have altered to some extent. Sunni radicalisation has been on the upswing lately, but global jihad is no longer their clarion call. This is notwithstanding renewed calls for unity in the Arab world against the Zionist enemy. Arab states are, instead, increasingly falling back on safeguarding their national interests. This has impacted the region's political landscape, and will impact the future politics of West Asia and beyond.

A revival of terror

Meanwhile, terrorism, per se, is witnessing a revival of sorts. Both the IS and al-Qaeda are showing signs of a resurgence. The al-Qaeda has resumed training camps in Taliban-run Afghanistan, while the IS affiliate operating in Afghanistan – the Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) – is beginning to expand its footprint, moving further afield to hit targets beyond Afghanistan and Pakistan. Sporadic attacks in Moscow, Iran and Türkiye do reveal its newer footprints. Increasing attacks on military facilities and transport have also been reported in Pakistan, while isolated attacks have taken place in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

Sporadic terror attacks in different countries across the globe do not necessarily herald, at this point, a return to the kind of large-scale terror attacks seen previously. Nevertheless, a succession of smaller scale terror attacks, including of late, in countries in the West, have given rise to concerns in security circles about a possible recrudescence of terror, and, on a wider scale, than what was seen in the past decade. As matters stand today, security agencies across the world do believe that a determined effort is still needed to effectively decapitate the 'terror apparatus' before it takes on a more serious dimension.

Two recent terror incidents have jolted security agencies in the U.S. out of their complacency about possible terror attacks. In January, a yet-to-be-detected explosion took place in a Tesla cyber truck, in Las Vegas outside the hotel in which then U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, was staying. The occupant of the cyber truck was found dead inside the vehicle. He was later identified as someone who had previously been with the U.S. elite Special Forces engaged in counter-terrorism abroad.

In another, and a separate, incident in New Orleans, on New Year's Day, Shamsuddin Jabbar, a 42-year-old American citizen and a military veteran who had worked as an IT specialist, drove a truck into a crowd in New Orleans, killing 14 people and injuring 35. His vehicle had a black IS flag attached to it. Jabbar was shot dead by the authorities before he could be interrogated, but an analysis of the incident suggests careful planning. The two incidents occurring side by side have given rise to fresh concerns of a revival and a resurgence of IS-style terror attacks. Both U.S. nationals, for instance, had a military background. Additional concerns relate to the advent of a new category of recruits into terror ranks. Meantime, U.S. intelligence services claim to have foiled a plot in Virginia.

Warnings that need to be heeded

Counter-terrorism experts, hence, have reason to believe that there is ample cause to be concerned. The two incidents have also revived memories of similar vehicle attacks in France and other European cities during the heyday of the IS. Hence, most counter-terrorism experts believe that the world needs to be prepared for a new wave of terror attacks. The fact that more and more information is forthcoming about a fresh wave of proselytisation by IS and al-Qaeda recruiters, employing the most modern methods, including Artificial Intelligence, is again highly disconcerting. The message that comes through loud and clear is that while matters relating to new terror methods and terror attacks are possibly still at an early stage, the warnings should not be ignored and steps need to be taken at the earliest to prevent a fresh wave of terror.

An aerospace expo to further India's global presence

Sanjeev Kumar

is Secretary (Defence Production), Ministry of Defence, Government of India

Aero India 2025, which is being held at the Indian Air Force station at Yelahanka in Bengaluru (February 10-14), is more than just an exhibition. It is a platform for innovation, strategic alliances, and technological advancement. The edition this year promises to redefine the standards of aerospace expositions and elevate India's global presence in the aviation sector.

As the 15th edition, the show is set to become a landmark event in India's journey towards self-reliance in defence production. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, this premier air show has grown to become a global hub for aerospace innovation, collaboration, and strategic partnerships. The theme this year, 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', encapsulates India's commitment to fostering cutting-edge advancements in defence technology while opening new doors for international collaboration.

A rapid transformation from the 1990s

As the Secretary (Defence Production), it is a matter of great pride for this writer to witness the remarkable transformation of India's aerospace and defence manufacturing capabilities. What began in 1996 as a modest aviation exposition, has, today, evolved into one of the most significant global defence events.

With an ever-increasing footprint, Aero India now attracts top-tier defence manufacturers, policymakers, industry leaders and visionaries from across the world. Past editions have witnessed extensive participation from industry players and innovators, and Aero India 2025 is poised to surpass milestones, serving as a dynamic platform to propel India's defence production and technological prowess onto the global stage.

Aero India 2025 is set to witness participation from leading global and domestic defence manufacturers, reaffirming its status as a premier defence and aerospace exhibition. A total of 106 original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), including 55 foreign OEMs from 19 countries such as Brazil, France, Israel, Japan, Russia, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States have already confirmed their presence. Sixteen defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) have also confirmed their participation. Additionally, 35 Indian OEMs, including industry giants such as Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Forge Ltd, Adani Defence & Aerospace, Mahindra Defence Systems Limited, BrahMos Aerospace, Ashok Leyland Defence, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), and Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), will showcase their cutting-edge advancements, reflecting the growing synergy between the public and private sectors in bolstering India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.

> Aero India 2025 will highlight India's intent to emerge as a global leader in defence and aerospace production

Highlights of the exposition

For the first time, the exposition will feature two of the world's most advanced fighter jets, the Russian Su-57 and the American F-35. These cutting-edge aircraft will offer aviation experts and enthusiasts a rare opportunity to analyse their capabilities and performance. The Su-57 is engineered for superior stealth and agility, and the F-35 is renowned for its technological superiority. This unprecedented participation signals India's role as a central player in global defence diplomacy and aerospace progress.

India will showcase a model of its fifth generation aircraft 'Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft' (AMCA), which is in the development stage. The indigenous design and development of this twin engine fifth generation stealth fighter aircraft, with 75% domestic content, will propel India into a select league of nations having the capacity to make their own fifth generation aircraft.

Another most anticipated segment that will be on show in Bengaluru is 'Manthan', a dedicated platform to promote start-ups and innovation in the aerospace and defence sectors. The event will showcase pioneering advancements from Indian start-ups at the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) pavilion, reinforcing the government's commitment to fostering home-grown solutions that cater to domestic and international defence requirements. The Indian pavilion will serve as a testament to the country's firm commitment to 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', displaying an impressive array of indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities and state-of-the-art technologies.

The visitor experience

In order to ensure a seamless experience for the over seven lakh visitors expected in this edition, significant improvements have been made in collaboration with the national and State authorities. Key enhancements include: optimised traffic flow made possible by expanded roads, designated routes, and real-time monitoring to ease congestion; enhanced transport services such as comfortable shuttle options to facilitate trouble-free access for attendees; robust security arrangements in the form of a multi-tiered security strategy with advanced surveillance, ensuring the highest safety standards; comfort-driven amenities as spacious halls, increased seating zones, improved dining facilities, and dedicated assistance booths for visitor convenience, and a specialised Aero India 2025 application for updates, schedules, and navigation assistance in real time.

Beyond the static exhibition of cutting-edge military aircraft, visitors will witness an enthralling aerial display, offering a glimpse into India's growing air combat and technological prowess. Additionally, aerospace and defence seminars, live technology demonstrations, and interactive sessions will provide industry stakeholders and enthusiasts, valuable insights into the latest advancements in these rapidly evolving sectors.

Aero India 2025 is a definitive statement of India's intent to emerge as a global leader in defence and aerospace production. As the nation strides towards achieving greater self-reliance in defence manufacturing, this event serves as a crucial catalyst in bridging technological gaps, fostering innovation, and strengthening international partnerships.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Delhi result

Given the nature of the anti-incumbency wave, the Bharatiya Janata Party's Delhi win was on the lines predicted. But the defeats of Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia are inexplicable.

The result need not resonate across the country but it confirms that the Congress party has lost whatever sheen it had in the past.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

MFI ordinance

The MFI ordinance ("Karnataka: Governor returns microfinance ordinance, says existing laws can be used to curb harassment", February 7) was one that was created without consultation within the House or even regulators such as the RBI which governs the MFI sector and whose views are paramount on maximum interest rates. This ordinance could have had the effect of driving credit deprived poor and rural workers back into the hands of usurious moneylenders.

While there is no doubt that agencies that use illegal strong-arm tactics for recovery need to be kept in check, this is by no means confined to MFIs. This is seen in the case of credit card and loan recoveries by scheduled banks and NBFCs. It is a law and order problem and errant parties have to be punished on a case by case basis.

By and large, all governments are cash strapped and unable/unwilling to support the needy with minimum credit lines or underwriting, thus leaving them at the hands of unorganised private players.

MFIs sought to address this problem through a well-regulated market mechanism — they are also tightly regulated. However, often for political reasons, governments get into the fray by wantonly waiving loans and micro management measures, thus threatening the sustainability of this industry.

Sunil K. Kolangara,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

India's opportunity at the AI Action Summit

Shatakratu Sahu

Senior Research Analyst, Technology and Society Program, Carnegie India

In early January, India accepted France's invitation to co-chair the AI Action Summit on February 10 and 11 in Paris. This summit will be the third of its kind, following meetings focussed on AI safety in the U.K. (2023) and South Korea (2024). In addition to AI safety, the agenda at Paris is to focus on innovation, public interest AI, future of work, and AI governance issues – presenting India an opportunity to continue its global engagement on AI safety and also amplify the voice of the Global South on broader AI issues.

This article outlines how India can leverage the opportunity to advance three key priorities for the Global South. Doing this well could also strongly position India to host the next such summit, which brings together decision makers on AI policy, industry at the forefront of AI development, and civil society representatives for an inclusive dialogue on AI.

Voice of the Global South

The first meeting in Bletchley Park focussed on the safety of 'frontier AI models', the emerging risks of AI, and launched the U.K. AI Safety Institute (AISI). The second meeting in Seoul expanded the scope of the conversation to multilateral collaboration on AI risk management through a network of AISIs with countries/blocs such as the U.S., France, Singapore, Japan, and the European Union. With ministerial and high-level bureaucratic representation through the meetings, India has actively engaged in the global discourse on AI safety. As a next step, India's IT Minister recently announced plans of setting up an AI Safety Institute.

In other multilateral fora with leadership roles, India has championed the cause for the Global South, which has not leveraged the transformative potential of AI as much as more developed parts of the world have. Under India's presidency in 2023, the G20 endorsed a "pro-innovation regulatory/governance approach" to balance AI innovation and the need to develop guardrails for AI. Soon after, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) meeting hosted by India in December 2023 emphasised the need for "equitable access to critical resources for AI research and innovation" to underscore the need for enabling AI infrastructure for developing AI applications.

Priorities in Paris

India's vision for the Global South could now benefit from the broad agenda of the Paris meeting. To maximise this opportunity, India should focus on three key strategic priorities. First, India must advocate for democratising access to AI resources across the entire AI value chain. While India's domestic initiative of establishing a common computing facility with over 18,600 GPUs and 40% government subsidy sets a compelling example, the scope must expand beyond computing hardware. This includes ensuring equitable access to data sets, data storage infrastructure, cloud computing platforms, foundation models, and application development platforms. In addition, India should promote distributed computing solutions, an alternative to traditional computing infrastructure, and access to innovative safety tools like watermarking technology.

The promotion of open-source AI models deserves particular attention. DeepSeek's success demonstrates both the potential of open-source models and the need to address export control measures that currently constrain AI model development. India must advocate for more flexible cross-border transfer of AI technologies while maintaining appropriate safety standards.

Second, India should call for developing a framework for identifying and prioritising AI use-cases relevant to the Global South's unique contexts. This approach ensures that AI applications serve local needs rather than becoming solutions in search of problems. Instances include early disease detection systems adapted to local healthcare infrastructure, personalised learning platforms that account for diverse educational contexts, and agricultural productivity tools calibrated to regional farming practices. The establishment of an AI use-case repository following the summit could provide guidance for the Global South in determining its priorities.

Third, India must emphasise the importance of contextualising AI risks and safety measures for the Global South. The challenges faced by developing nations often differ significantly from those of the Global North. Cultural erosion through exposure to large language models trained on "western data" represents one such unique risk. The Yoshua Benjio-led expert report on International Scientific Report on the Safety of Advanced AI highlights that risk is derived from the "probability of an occurrence of harm and severity of that harm." Risks are thus future looking but grounded in already occurred harm. In Paris, India must thus call for collecting evidence of AI-related harms, grounded in Global South contexts, to inform their risk mitigation strategies. A repository of AI-related harms could also help inform any future regulatory approaches of the Global South.

Looking ahead

As co-chair of the Paris meeting, India must leverage its position to advance the key AI priorities of the Global South. Doing so would also position India as an ideal candidate to host the next AI Action Summit, which would ensure continued focus on the Global South perspective on AI. This would, in turn, cement India's role as bridge between the AI superpowers in the Global North and developing nations catching up in the global AI sphere.

As co-chair of the Paris meeting, India must leverage its position to advance the key AI priorities of the Global South

Seeking an eye for an eye

The death penalty is a quick-fix approach adopted by governments to quell anger

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
shivsahay.s@thehindu.co.in

On February 7, the Calcutta High Court rejected the West Bengal government's appeal seeking the death penalty for the man convicted for the rape and murder case of a woman at the R.G. Kar Medical Hospital in Kolkata last year. However, the Court admitted a separate appeal, also demanding the death penalty, by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which investigated the case.

Faced with widespread and prolonged protests after the gruesome incident on August 9, 2024, the West Bengal government was the first to demand the death penalty for the convict. About a month after the incident, it passed the Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the State Assembly, which contains provisions for the death penalty in almost all cases involving rape. The Bill is awaiting a nod from the Union government.

However, on January 20, the Additional District and Sessions Judge of Sealdah, Anirban Das, spared the convict of the noose, stating that the crime does not fall in the category of 'rarest of rare' crimes. While awarding the convict life imprisonment, the judge argued that the duty of the court was not to match "brutality with brutality", but to elevate humanity through wisdom, compassion, and a deeper understanding of justice. "In the realm of modern justice, we must rise above the primitive instinct of 'an eye for an eye' or 'a tooth for a tooth' or 'nail for a nail' or 'a life for a life,'" he noted in the order. The judge added that the court must resist the temptation of bowing to public pressure or emotional appeals.

The judgment was criticised by many people for noting that the crime, which involved extreme brutality, did not fall under the 'rarest of rare' category, and there was a clamour again for the death sentence. Within a week, the State government and the CBI argued before the High Court that their petition seeking capital punishment for the convict be heard. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee stated that if the Kolkata Police had investigated the crime, they would have been able to convince the Court to award the death penalty. "If someone is a monster, how can society show humanity? Society must be made humane towards our mothers and sisters," she said.

Ever since the rape and murder of the postgraduate trainee doctor at R.G. Kar Medical Hospital, there have been at least three incidents involving the rape and murder of minors in which the death sentence has been awarded to the convicts. Officials of the State government and leaders of the ruling Trinamool Congress have been highlighting these sentences to argue that the police and trial courts have quickly delivered justice in cases involving sexual assault. While inordinate delays in investigation and trial often frustrates the faith of the people in the judicial system (justice delayed is justice denied), hurried investigations and trials can be equally dangerous (justice hurried is justice buried).

The Justice J.S. Verma Committee, formed in 2012 to reform laws related to sexual assault in India, was not inclined to recommend the death penalty for rape even in the 'rarest of rare' cases. The Committee had pointed out that "there is considerable evidence that the deterrent effect of the death penalty on serious crimes is actually a myth".

Tackling crimes against women requires a multi-pronged strategy. This includes better policing and ensuring safer workplaces for women. It was shocking that the convict in the R.G. Kar case, a civic police volunteer, had walked into the seminar room of the State-run health facility in the dead of the night without facing any checks at the hospital gates. Is is a fact that hardly any background checks are conducted while recruiting contractual staff, who are entrusted with helping the law establishment discharge their duties. These are the issues that need urgent redress and were in fact some of the demands of the protesters who had hit the streets last August. Even the parents of the victim believe that the death penalty is not the only way to ensure justice. They have said that they want the investigative agencies to look at the "larger conspiracy" and are seeking punishment for others involved in the crime.

The death penalty is a quick-fix approach adopted by governments to quell anger and protests. The trial court judge had rightly recognised and resisted it.

China contributes substantially to U.S.' biggest imports

The highest share of Washington DC's imports comes from the three nations hit by President Donald Trump's newest trade tariffs

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

Last week, U.S. President Donald Trump announced additional tariffs on imports from China, Canada, and Mexico amidst what the White House referred to as a national emergency caused by "illegal aliens and drugs". In retaliation, China said it would implement counter tariffs.

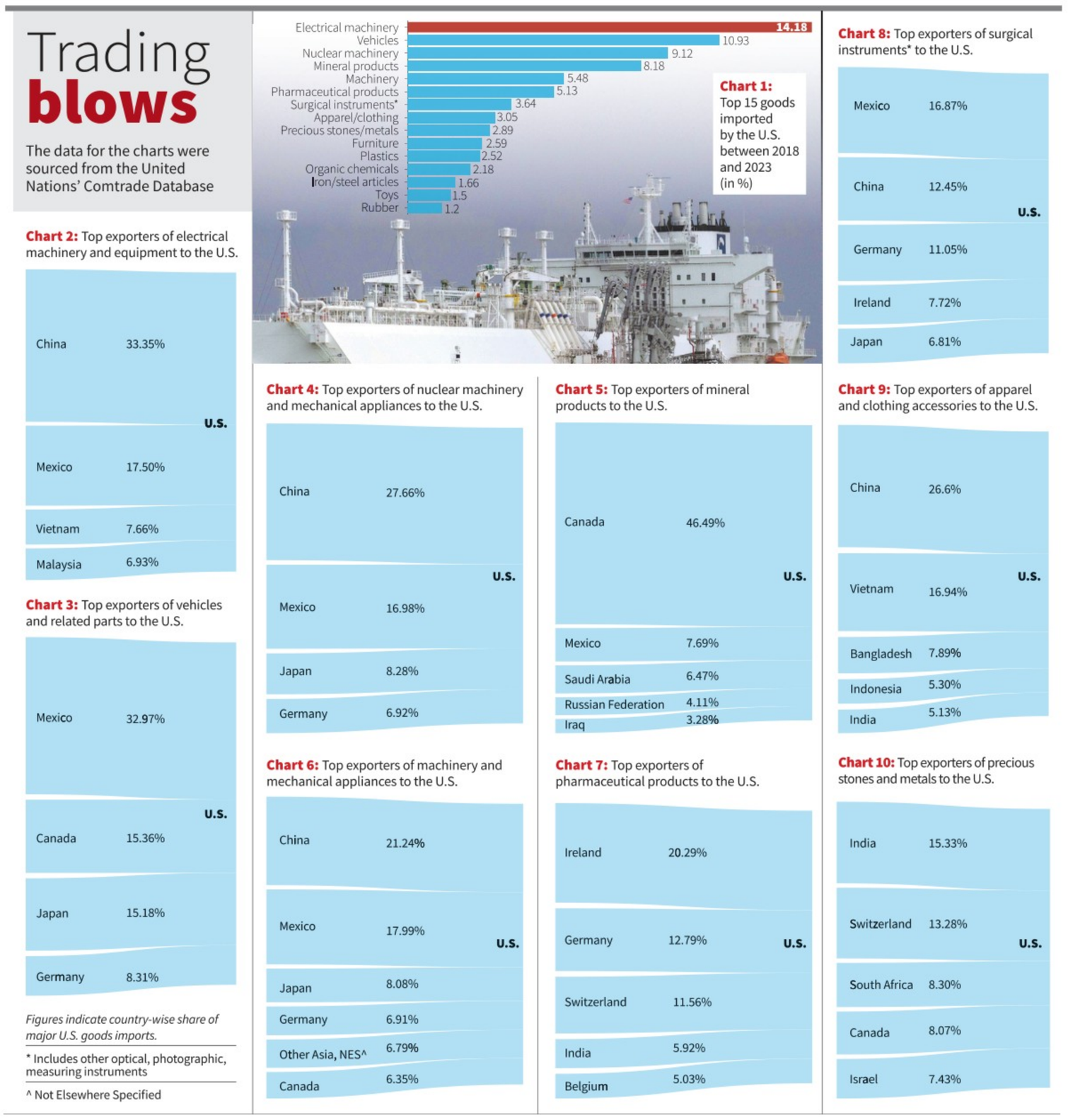
Of the more than 75 countries with which the U.S. maintains trade relations, China accounted for 18% of all of its imported services between 2018 and 2023, which is the highest share, followed by Mexico (14%) and Canada (13%).

The U.S. imported goods worth $17,000 billion between 2018 and 2023. Of these, electrical machinery and equipment accounted for 15%, vehicles and their parts accounted for 11%, and nuclear machinery and appliances, 9%. **Chart 1** shows the top 15 goods and services imported by the U.S. between 2018 and 2023 (in %).

Charts 2-10 show the country-wise share of the top nine goods and services imported by the U.S. China's share was the highest in eight of the 15 listed items, including two of the three most imported products – electrical and nuclear machinery. China accounted for the highest share of imported iron or steel, plastics, and clothing (20-30%); furniture (about 40%); and toys (nearly 80%). It also contributed the second highest share in the imports of measuring instruments, organic chemicals, and rubber.

Mexico contributed to the highest share of imported vehicles and measuring instruments. It was also among the top three countries exporting electrical and nuclear machinery, furniture, iron or steel, and rubber to the U.S.

Canada contributed to almost half of the mineral imports to the U.S., as well as high shares of plastic, vehicles, and iron or steel.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 10, 1975

Tobacco industry to come under Union Govt. control

New Delhi, Feb. 9: The tobacco industry will be brought under the control of the Union Government and a cess will be levied on the entire production of virginia tobacco and on exports of all types of tobacco to finance the proposed tobacco board.

Provisions to this effect are contained in the Tobacco Board Bill that has been introduced in the Lok Sabha at its last session. The Bill is expected to come up for consideration and adoption in the budget session.

The board with its headquarters at Guntur will have 21 members including the Chairman. Barring the three MPs, who will be selected by the two Houses of Parliament, the other members will be appointed by the Union Government. They will include representatives of the Union Ministries dealing with agriculture, commerce, finance and industrial development, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Governments. Besides these, the Centre will appoint two members to represent the tobacco-growing States, other than Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, by rotation in alphabetical order. There will also be eight members to represent tobacco growers, dealers, and exporters, manufacturers of tobacco products and experts in tobacco.

The Board will regulate production and curing of virginia tobacco, keep a watch on virginia tobacco market, and ensure fair and remunerative price for the growers, develop new markets for Indian tobacco, recommend minimum export price for virginia tobacco, and make purchases from growers to give price support to growers.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 10, 1925

Service ideal in journalism

Calcutta, Feb. 9: Speaking at a meeting of the Indian Journalists' Association yesterday, Mr. Arthur Moore, acting editor of *The Statesman*, said a newspaper does not exist as a publicity organ for aspiring people to find their names in its pages, but there were certain responsibilities on the editorial side of a newspaper whose main function was provision of news and formation of public opinion. A journalist must cultivate a spirit of service.

From Page One

Biren quits as Manipur CM after meeting Shah

The Army and police were instructed to deploy checkpoints on arterial roads to prevent the infiltration of Meitei insurgent groups from neighbouring Myanmar, watch out for protests by women groups such as Meira Paibis, and were asked to keep a check on the activities of the Kuki-Zo insurgent groups in the hills.

The source said that the meeting was convened owing to the expected political developments in the State coupled with availability of a large number of looted police weapons with civilians and other armed radical groups. Districts such as Jiribam, Kakching, Imphal, Moirang and Thoubal were identified as "likely hotspots" for violence.

No-confidence motion

A no-confidence motion was expected to be moved against Mr. Singh by Congress legislators in the Assembly session which was set to begin on Monday.

Late on Saturday, Mr. Singh, along with five others, had landed in New Delhi on a chartered flight. On Sunday afternoon, Mr. Singh met Mr. Shah for 15-20 minutes at the latter's residence and upon his return to Imphal, he submitted the resignation to the Governor. He was accompanied by the Bharatiya Janata Party's Manipur in-charge Sambit Patra and State party president A. Sharda Devi.

The resignation also comes in the wake of a February 4 order by the Supreme Court to ascertain the veracity of the alleged audio recordings said to be that of Mr. Singh, where the speaker is heard claiming credit for orchestrating violence against the Kuki-Zo community.

Reacting to the development, Rahul Gandhi, Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said on X that "for nearly two years, BJP's CM Biren Singh instigated division in Manipur".

'Restore peace'

"The resignation of CM Biren Singh shows that mounting public pressure, the SC investigation and the no-confidence motion by the Congress forced a reckoning. But the most urgent priority is to restore peace in the State, and work to heal the wounds of the people of Manipur," he said.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Singh said he was grateful to the Central government for timely actions, interventions, developmental work and implementation of various projects for safeguarding the interest of every single Manipuri.

Requesting the Centre to "maintain the territorial integrity of Manipur which has a rich and diverse civilisational history over thousands of years", Mr. Singh reiterated his stand "to crack down on border infiltration, to formulate policy for the deportation of the illegal immigrants... and to continue the revised mechanism of FMR [Free Movement Regime]".

31 Maoists, two jawans killed in Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said nearly 650 personnel took part in the operation in areas along the Chhattisgarh-Maharashtra boundary, a Maoist haven. With this, 65 Maoists had been killed this year in the Bastar region.

In total, at least 81 Maoists had been killed in the first 40 days of 2025, a figure that translates to two killed every day. In 2024, a year that saw intensification of the anti-Maoist campaign in Chhattisgarh, 239 Maoists were gunned down.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had last year set a deadline of March 2026 to wipe out left-wing extremism in the country. On Sunday, he reiterated the deadline and termed the encounter a success.

"In the direction of making India Naxal-free, the security forces have achieved a big success in Bijapur. Today, we have lost two of our brave soldiers in the effort to end anti-human Naxalism. This country will always be indebted to these heroes. I express my heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyred soldiers," he posted on X.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister hailed the security forces for "entering the Naxalites' den" and eliminating them.

BJP begins talks to select Delhi CM

L-G office sources said the meeting's time had not been fixed.

The BJP's topmost leadership, including party president J.P. Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, met Delhi election in-charge Baijayant Panda and Mr. Sachdeva to discuss the selection of a Chief Minister.

Sources in the party said that since Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting France and the U.S. from Monday, the oath-taking will take place once he is back. The Chief Minister's name will be announced accordingly.

Earlier, the BJP MLAs started their day with roadshows and rallies, thanking their constituents for the victory of the party. The 48 MLAs later met at the Delhi BJP headquarters.

A party leader said the meeting at the BJP office was to ensure all MLAs were introduced to one another before their term begins officially.

The seven Delhi MPs also participated in the scheduled meetings with their area MLAs during the day.

Plan to amend nuclear liability law may enthuse American, French firms

Announcement comes ahead of Modi's visit to Paris and Washington this week; government's U-turn a decade later spells hope for Westinghouse, Electricite de France plans, deals for new-age small reactors; experts hail the decision, but call for more clarity on the amendments proposed

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris and Washington from Monday, the Union government's announcement that it would amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act (CLNDA), 2010, and the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, is likely to enthuse American and French nuclear power companies, whose projects have been deadlocked due to legal concerns for more than 15 years. However, experts who welcomed the decision, called for more clarity on the amendments.

The announcement, which marked a sharp U-turn from the government's position in 2015, was made in the Budget speech on February 1. In particular, it is meant to help progress the Electricite de France (EDF) MoU to build six EPR1650 reactors at Jaitapur in Maharashtra that was signed in 2009 (with Areva), and American Westinghouse Electric Company's (WEC) MoU, signed in 2012, to build six AP1000 reactors at Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh.

In addition, it is expected to help India tap into new nuclear power technologies, particularly for small modular reactors (SMR), now gaining popularity in developed economies.

"For an active partnership with the private sector towards this goal, amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act will be taken up," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said in the speech, calling for "at least 100 GW" of nuclear energy by 2047, and making an outlay of ₹20,000 crore for the development of five SMRs to be operationalised in India by 2033. India has a nuclear power capacity of 6,780 MW from 22 reactors, and the only foreign operator in India is Russia's Rosatom.

High liability

Western nuclear power companies have, however, said clauses in the CLNDA are unacceptable as they mandate a high degree of liability for suppliers and contradict the international Convention for Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC) which focuses only on the liability of operators of the plant. The clauses were inserted in 2012, following heated debates in Parliament, where the then-in-Opposition NDA members had accused the government of letting Western companies off from liability, citing the Union Carbide-Bhopal gas leak case that killed thousands in 1984 and the Fukushima nuclear leak in Japan in 2011.

Joint effort: India's only foreign nuclear operator, Rosatom, is involved in the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu.

"This law was amended by the government just to satisfy the Opposition at the time, even though it was clear that the international operators legal liability clause would create problems down the road," Shyam Saran, former Foreign Secretary, who was the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Nuclear Affairs and Climate Change at the time, told *The Hindu*, adding that the amendments now being planned must be made in consultation with international partners and ensure the liability issue was dealt with in contracts signed.

The External affairs Ministry declined to comment on what the proposed amendments would entail. Officials aware of discussions on the issue said that while the CLNDA would be amended to separate operator's liability from supplier's liability to bring it in line with the CSC, the Atomic Energy Act would liberalise investment in power projects in India.

Legal standard

"The pragmatic way out is to break the deadlock by amending the CLNDA to bring it on par with international conventions to which India itself is a party – so that there is a clear legal standard in our domestic legislation aligned with international standards and is applicable to international partners and domestic industry," said Venkatesh Verma, former Ambassador to Russia, who was part of negotiations for all India's civil nuclear agreements and led the External Affairs Ministry's Disarmament and International Security Affairs desk. With the Trump administration keen to encourage U.S. energy exports, for both oil and LNG, as well as nuclear power, and France and India negotiating deals for SMR projects, the issue will be on the agenda as Mr. Modi travels to France and the U.S. this week. It remains to be seen whether the government's plans to amend the laws will finally forge the breakthrough required, two decades after India signed civil nuclear deals with the U.S. and France.

Significantly, in a "Frequently Asked Questions" memorandum issued by the Ministry after the Republic Day visit to India by U.S. President Barack Obama in February 2015, the government had said that there was "no proposal to amend the Act or the Rules", and that U.S. officials had reached a "general understanding that India's CLND law is compatible with the [International] Convention for Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC)". However, the "understanding" did not result in any serious contracts for nuclear power.

Gold smuggling has reduced after import duty cut: CBIC chief

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Gold smuggling has reduced significantly since July 2024 when the government slashed import duty on the precious metal to 6%, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has said.

As per the latest available data, Customs and DRI officers seized 847 kg of gold worth ₹544 crore at various airports in the April-June period of the current fiscal.

In July, the government reduced customs duty on gold to 6% from 15%.

"After the rate of duty was reduced on gold in last year's Budget, there is a significant reduction in the smuggling of gold," Mr. Agarwal told *PTI* in an interview.

Although Mr. Agarwal did not reveal the quantum or value of gold seizures, he said authorities are keeping regular watch over the international passenger traffic, porous borders, and commercial cargoes coming into the country to cut the smuggling of narcotics through any route.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), under CBIC, is the apex agency of the Indian customs in the field of anti-smuggling in India.

During the 2023-24 financial year, DRI officers alone seized 1,319 kg of gold.

Smuggling through India's porous eastern borders, particularly with Bangladesh and Myanmar, has also emerged as a major concern for law enforcement agencies.

Gold smuggling through air routes in India remains a prominent method used by smugglers, with West Asian and South East Asian countries being the major points of origin.

In poll-bound Meghalaya, rat-hole coal mining hopes ride on Article 371

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A regional party in poll-bound Meghalaya has indicated that bringing the State under the purview of Article 371 could help resume rat-hole coal mining, which has been banned since April 2014.

Article 371 of the Constitution grants special powers to certain States.

Strong Pillar Kharjana, one of the candidates of the Voice of the People Party (VPP), cited the example of Nagaland to seek Article 371 for Meghalaya.

Specific to Nagaland, Article 371A has special provisions guaranteeing the protection of land and its resources apart from the Naga customary law and procedure.

Mr. Kharjana is contesting from the Mawkhar-Pynthorumkhrah constituency of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) where elections are scheduled for February 21. Elections to the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council (JHADC) will also be held on the same day.

Narrow path: A file photo of rat-hole mines seen in East Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The two tribal councils have 30 seats each but elections are held in 29 while the Governor nominates a member.

Claiming that rat-hole mining is rampant in Nagaland, Mr. Kharjana said the National Green Tribunal (NGT) cannot interfere with the coal mining activities in Nagaland because of Article 371A. The NGT banned rat-hole mining in Meghalaya in 2014. The ban, upheld by the Supreme Court, was extended to other areas of Northeast. "We understand that the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India empowers a district council to make laws on allotment of land, social custom, forest, etc., but Paragraph 12A of this Schedule allows the State's law to prevail over that of the district council if there is any conflict," Mr. Kharjana said.

In February 2024, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio told the Assembly that Article 371A has been the major hurdle in the State government's efforts to regulate small-scale illegal coal mining activities.

Barring the VPP and the Congress, which advocated the incorporation of some provisions of Article 371 to make the Sixth Schedule more potent, the other parties agreed that the two constitutional provisions were incompatible.

The discussions on Article 371 intensified a week after the Coal Controller under the Ministry of Coal signed three escrow agreements with the project proponents for mining sites at three locations - Pyndengshalang in West Khasi Hills, Saryngkham in West Jaintia Hills, and Lumiakhi Wahsarang in the East Jaintia Hills district.

The votes will be counted on February 24.

'Maintain a diary to track irregular periods'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Experts have underlined the need for women to maintain a menstrual diary to keep track of irregular periods.

Speaking at a webinar on "Management of heavy menstrual bleeding" as part of *The Hindu*'s "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative in collaboration with Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, Abraham Peedicayil, senior consultant in gynae-oncology at the hospital, emphasised the importance of maintaining haemoglobin levels through iron supplements or blood transfusions, if necessary.

He highlighted key indicators of abnormal menstrual bleeding, such as cycles lasting more than seven days, heavy clotting, frequent periods occurring within 21 days, delays beyond 35 days, and post-coital bleeding. Three doctors from Naruvi Hospitals provided insights into the causes, diagnosis, and latest treatment options for this condition, aiming to raise awareness and enhance women's health.

Dr. Peedicayil emphasised that a woman's menstrual cycle involves both the ovarian and uterine cycles, not just the period itself. He explained that a typical cycle lasts between 21 and 35 days, with menstruation occurring for two to seven days. "Menopause generally occurs around the age of 50," he added.

He also stressed the importance of menstrual hygiene, recommending regular changes of menstrual products, wearing breathable clothing, and maintaining proper genital hygiene to prevent infections and control odour.

Regarding perimenopausal bleeding disorders, he noted that irregular vaginal bleeding was common during the transition to menopause. "If your periods are excessively heavy or delayed by more than three months, it is crucial to consult a doctor," he said. Symptoms of perimenopause include irregular cycles, mood swings, vaginal dryness, and a decreased libido.

Menopause, he explained, is defined as the absence of menstruation for at least six months, once pregnancy has been ruled out. Any postmenopausal bleeding is considered abnormal and requires immediate investigation to rule out potential cancer risks.

Heavy bleeding

P.B. Akilasree, senior consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at Naruvi Hospitals, addressed the issue of heavy menstrual bleeding in adolescents. She explained that normal blood loss during a cycle is around 30 ml-40 ml. However, if blood loss exceeds 80 ml or requires more than one pad per hour, it is classified as heavy menstrual bleeding.

She highlighted major causes of excessive bleeding in adolescents, such as anovulation, hormonal imbalances, and thyroid dysfunction. The condition often leads to school absenteeism and emotional distress.

For treatment, she recommended non-hormonal medication, iron supplements for anaemia, and, in some cases, surgical intervention for fibroids. "Using high-absorbency sanitary products and consuming iron-rich foods can help manage symptoms," she advised. She also urged young women to seek medical attention if they experience severe cramps or excessive bleeding.

Jeyasheela Kamaraj, consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at Naruvi Hospitals, discussed heavy menstrual bleeding in women aged 19 to 45.

"It is essential to identify whether the bleeding is due to infections," she said. Treatment options include iron supplements, tranexamic acid, and combined oral contraceptive (COC) pills.

(The video is available on bit.ly/3XhalLF)

E-rickshaw driver held for rape, murder of minor

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Bidhannagar city police have arrested a 22-year-old e-rickshaw driver in connection with the rape and murder of a 13-year-old girl in the Newtown area of Kolkata.

The body of the victim was found in a desolate location on Friday.

CCTV footage showed the girl walking alone and taking the e-rickshaw of the accused on February 6 night. According to the police, the driver, after dropping off other passengers, took the girl to the desolate spot, sexually assaulted her and strangulated her.

The accused has been booked under Sections of the POCSO Act.

Jagdeep Dhankhar

Farmers hold political and economic strength: V-P

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said farmers played a key role in the country's development and no one could undermine their contribution to India's growth.

Addressing the Akhil Mewar Region Jat Mahasabha in Chittorgarh, Mr. Dhankhar said: "When the economic situation of farmers improves, the country's situation improves. After all, farmers are the providers and they should not look to anyone or depend on anyone for help because farmers with their strong hands possess political strength and economic capability." He said today's governance system bowed to farmers.

Recognising the contribution of the Jat reservation movement, he highlighted the community's efforts in advancing social justice in society.

"There are over 730 agricultural science centres to help farmers. Don't leave them alone, go there and ask them: 'What services will you offer us?' Learn about new technologies and government policies," he said.

Urging the youth to take up agricultural business, he said: "My appeal is to farmers and to the sons and daughters of farmers. Agriculture production is the world's largest and most precious trade. Why are farmers not involved in the trade of their products? Our youth is talented." He said more farmers should work in agricultural production businesses for a long-term positive economic outcome.

(With PTI inputs)

Only 20 of 46 NDA MLAs took part in meeting held by Biren

Dissidents were unhappy with how he handled the situation arising out of the prolonged ethnic conflict in Manipur; he was summoned twice to New Delhi as the Congress decided to move a no-confidence motion against his government

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Speculation was rife about a change of guard in Manipur as early as Saturday evening when N. Biren Singh left for New Delhi in a chartered flight soon after holding a meeting with the MLAs of the ruling National Democratic Alliance, whose constituents include the Naga People's Front and the Janata Dal (U).

Out of 46 MLAs of the alliance, only 20 turned up for the meeting. Mr. Singh resigned a day later on Sunday.

The meeting was apparently convened to discuss the Budget Session starting on Monday, but BJP insiders said Mr. Singh wanted to find out how many MLAs were with him as a dissident group had been seeking a change in leadership. The dissidents were unhappy with how he handled the situation arising out of the prolonged ethnic conflict between the tribal Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities that broke out on May 3, 2023.

Apart from the dissidents, mostly from the Meitei community, seven BJP legislators belonging to the Kuki-Zo community have stayed away from the State capital, Imphal.

On February 7, the State Congress announced it would move a no-confidence motion against the Biren Singh government. This was four days after a delegation apprised the Governor of a threat to "hound out" any MLA who goes for a no-trust motion against the government. The Congress, which has five MLAs, was hoping to get the support of the BJP dissidents apart from the six MLAs of the National People's Party to take the number beyond the 10 required for the no-trust to stand.

Two recent developments are believed to have worked against Mr. Singh.

One was the "93% confirmation" by the non-profit Truth Labs that the voice in a leaked audio clip heard making offensive remarks against a minority community matched his. The other was the possibility of a section of BJP Ministers and legislators siding with the Congress for the expected no-confidence motion on Monday.

A footballer-turned-editor of a local publication, the 64-year-old Mr. Singh won his maiden Assembly election from the Heingang constituency in 2002 as a candidate of the regional Democratic Revolutionary Peoples Party. He later joined the Congress and rose to become an influential Minister but fell out with the party's leadership and joined the BJP ahead of the 2017 election.

He took charge as the 12th Chief Minister of Manipur in March 2017 after helping the BJP cobble together an alliance despite the party winning 21 seats. He defied the odds to lead the BJP to victory in the 2022 Assembly polls and become the Chief Minister for the second term.

On Saturday night, members of an unidentified armed group looted arms and ammunition from an outpost of the Manipur Rifles in Thoubal.

Spiral of violence

The ethnic conflict in Manipur has been manifesting in ghastly violence since May 2023, under N. Biren Singh's watch. Here is a timeline:

2023

- **May 3:** A 'tribal solidarity march' called by the All Tribal Students Union of Manipur to protest the move for inclusion of Meiteis on Scheduled Tribes list turns violent in the Torbung area of Churachandpur; violence spreads to Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley and peripheral hills
- **May 4:** Rioters loot thousands of weapons from security establishments, many of which have still not been recovered. Ethnic violence claims almost 100 lives within the first 24 hours
- **July 1:** Amid high drama, supporters, mostly women, stop then Chief Minister N. Biren Singh from going to the Raj Bhavan to tender his resignation

2024

- **August 8:** Manipur govt. claims an audio clip in which Singh is heard making allegedly offensive remarks against the State's ethnic minorities is fake; non-profit Truth Labs later says 93% of the voice in the clip matches his

2025

- **February 3:** Manipur Congress flags Singh's threat against any MLA who moves a no-confidence motion in the Assembly session starting February 10
- BJP MLAs are summoned to Delhi twice in the next few days amid speculation about a change of guard
- **February 9:** Biren Singh resigns

Atishi resigns, to continue in post till new govt. takes over

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Atishi

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Sunday handed over her resignation to Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena a day after the BJP secured a decisive victory in the Delhi Assembly election. Mr. Saxena asked Ms. Atishi to continue in the post till the formation of a new government.

The official handle of the Raj Nivas on X posted: "Hon'ble Lt Governor, Shri VK Saxena today received the resignation of Hon'ble CM, Ms Atishi.

He asked her to continue in her position till the formation of the new government."

Ms. Atishi took over as Chief Minister from Arvind Kejriwal on September 17, 2024, after he resigned days after his release from the Tihar Jail on bail. Mr. Kejriwal is charged with money laundering in the alleged Delhi liquor scam. Central investigation agencies are investigating the matter.

Ms. Atishi was the third woman to hold the post after Sushma Swaraj and Sheila Dikshit.

In the Assembly election, she won the Kalkaji seat, defeating former South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri by 3,521 votes.

Ms. Atishi, Gopal Rai, Mukesh Ahlawat, and Imran Hussain were the AAP Ministers who managed to hold on to their seats.

Assembly dissolved

A notification by the Assembly Secretariat on February 8 read, "In exercise of the power conferred upon me by sub-section (2) (b) of section 6 of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, I, Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, hereby dissolve the Seventh Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from February 8, 2025."

L-G's actions, excise probe, AAP-*da* led to AAP's election setback

Jaideep Deo Bhanj
Nikhil M Babu
NEW DELHI

In the first week of January, the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign for the Delhi Assembly election started with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the attack from the front on the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

It was on Mr. Modi's leadership and "Modi's guarantee" that the BJP fought the rest of the election, without a chief ministerial face. But there was another man, though never part of the election campaigning, who had been keeping the AAP and its chief Arvind Kejriwal on edge – central government-appointed Lieutenant Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena.

On January 3, Mr. Modi coined the term "AAP-*da*" (disaster). He said that "AAP-*da*" had befallen Delhi in the past 10 years and promised people to get rid of the disaster that has stalled the national capital's development.

The main focus of his speeches was establishing two things: first, there has been no development and no welfare of people in Delhi under the AAP, and secondly, the AAP has become corrupt.

But it seems that the groundwork for the political message was laid by the BJP over three years in two ways: one, Mr. Saxena was appointed L-G of the national capital in May 2022, and two, a change in law in May 2023.

Power play: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Delhi Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena in New Delhi on January 3. PTI

Major moves

Though the AAP had run-ins with the previous L-Gs too, the friction between the AAP and the Governor's office worsened to unprecedented levels under Mr. Saxena's tenure, who unlike his two predecessors was not a retired IAS officer and was seen by many as close to the BJP at the Centre.

Within two months of his appointment, Mr. Saxena in July 2022 recommended a CBI probe into the Delhi excise policy, which led to the arrest of top AAP leaders, including party chief Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy, Manish Sisodia.

Both of them, who are out on bail, lost the 2025 Delhi election, delivering a big blow to the AAP.

The second factor of the change in law happened in May 2023.

Delhi is essentially a Union Territory with an Assembly, and land, police, and law and order were under the control of the L-G. This led to the run-ins between the AAP and the L-G since it came to power in Delhi in 2013. Also, who controls top bureaucrats was a major bone of contention.

On May 11, 2023, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court gave the elected government of Delhi the power to make laws and wield control over the bureaucrats, except for matters related to public order, police, and land. But on May 19, the Centre issued an ordinance effectively negating the May 11 top court judgment and gave the L-G the final say on issues concerning top bureaucrats.

This has made a drastic change in how the Delhi government functions, and now files in some cases are sent by officials directly to the L-G. The AAP leaders kept raising the issue that the officials were not listening to them and were undermining and stalling different projects and schemes on the directions of the BJP at the Centre through the L-G. The BJP dismissed it and termed it AAP's politics.

'Historic win'

"It is a historic win and not a usual victory as the people of Delhi have shown the door to 'AAP-*da*'. Delhi has become *Aapda-mukt*," Mr. Modi said.

Though the term 'AAP-*da*' was used only for a little over a month by the BJP in the run-up to the election, its intended meaning was in the making for about three years.

AAP's defeat in Delhi Assembly polls revives the Congress's spirits in Punjab

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party's debacle in the Delhi Assembly election is all set to lift the Congress's spirits in Punjab. The Congress is the principal Opposition in the State and is wasting no time in pinning down the ruling AAP electorally.

The AAP is now in power only in Punjab. The next Punjab Assembly election will be held in 2027.

Claiming that the defeat in Delhi had burst the AAP's bubble, senior Congress leader and former Punjab Chief Minister Rajinder Kaur Bhattal on Sunday said the poll results would augment the already existing restlessness in the AAP cadre, which would eventually bring about the party's end.

"There's a lot of restlessness in members of the AAP, including the MLAs, and this defeat would only increase the restlessness. Many of the AAP members are former Congress people. So, anything is possible. Besides, within the AAP, there's rivalry, and differences between the Delhi and Punjab units,

Uncertain future: Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann and AAP Supremo Arvind Kejriwal.

which could widen after the defeat," Ms. Bhattal told *The Hindu* when asked about AAP MLAs connecting with the Congress.

'AAP exposed'

"The AAP was able to form governments in Delhi and Punjab on lies. But their defeat in Delhi reflects they have been exposed. They failed to keep their promises. The AAP will meet the same fate in Punjab as well," she said. The Congress, which has already been campaigning against "misgovernance" by the AAP government in Punjab, will now corner the ruling party with a renewed vigour over its "failures" and "unfulfilled promises" in the days to come, Ms. Bhattal said.

Though the Congress fared poorly in the Delhi Assembly election, the party is seen as the AAP's key challenger in Punjab. With a well-established organisational set-up and active leaders and workers on the ground, the Congress is seen as being capable of wresting power from the AAP, which has faced successive electoral setbacks since it came to power in Punjab with a landslide victory in the 2022 Assembly election. The party's latest defeat in Delhi will only add to its woes in Punjab.

"A lot will happen in Punjab," Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly and Congress MLA from Qadian Partap Singh Bajwa said after the AAP's defeat in Delhi. Mr. Bajwa said as many as 30 AAP MLAs were in touch with the Congress and could switch sides.

Apart from the Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are also expected to sharpen their attack against the AAP's unkept promises after three years of power in Punjab.

Raut questions Anna Hazare's silence on BJP's corruption

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Social activist Anna Hazare has expressed satisfaction over Arvind Kejriwal's defeat in the Delhi Assembly polls, according to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut. However, Mr. Raut has raised questions about Mr. Hazare's silence on corruption allegations against the Narendra Modi-led government, sparking a fresh political debate.

On Sunday, Mr. Raut criticised Mr. Hazare for not speaking out against corruption under the Modi government. "The country is being looted, with wealth concentrated in the hands of a single industrialist. What is the reason behind Hazare's silence?" Mr. Raut asked.

He also spoke about the alleged irregularities in the electoral process, pointing to voter list discrepancies in Maharashtra, Delhi, and Haryana. "There was a similar pattern of confusion in voter lists in Maharashtra and Delhi. These issues will likely arise in the upcoming Bihar polls as well," he said.

Mr. Raut suggested that the Delhi poll results might have been different if the AAP and Congress had formed an alliance.

Mr. Hazare, while speaking on Saturday, had criticised Mr. Kejriwal for ignoring his advice. "I have always said a candidate's conduct and thoughts must be pure, their life should be blameless, and they must embrace sacrifice. I told this to Kejriwal, but he did not listen. He was overwhelmed by money power," he said.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
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Sl. No.	Name of Work	Value of Work (Approx.)	Period of Completion
1.	Providing, Laying, Testing & Commissioning of distribution Pipeline to Mundamba Industrial Area in the district of Khurdha.	₹ 2.97 Crores	03 (Three) Calendar Months

I. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar-751022.	Bid ID.No. P&C/EST/E-44/2024-25	17.00 Hours of dt. 13.02.2025	17.00 Hours of dt. 06.03.2025

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in . Corrigendum or addendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tenderodisha.gov.in as well as IDCO website www.idco.in.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-2509: OIPR-14003/11/0107/2425

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER
ABRIDGED NIT
The **Director General, P&D Department, KMC** invites online e-tender on Design Build Operate Transfer (DBOT) basis under **"Namami Gange Programme"** from experienced Firms / Companies / Individual Contractors / Joint Ventures / Consortium, who have successfully completed the work of similar nature of works within last 7 (Seven) years from the date of this NIT in any Govt. / Semi-Govt. / Govt. Undertakings / Autonomous Bodies (Constituted under the State / Central Statute) / Statutory Bodies and Local Bodies is eligible for the under mentioned work :
NIT No. : KMC/D.G.(P_D)/C/123/2024-25
Name of work : **Rehabilitation of existing 50 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) along with associated infrastructure at Keorapukur, Kolkata, West Bengal;** Estimated Value : **Tender amount to be quoted by the bidder**; Bid Security : **INR 79,00,000.00 (INR Seventy Nine Lakh only)**; Period of Completion : **Design, Build, Test and Commissioning period of 12 months (Excluding trial run for 3 months) for Capital Works and thereafter 15 years of Operation & Maintenance period**; Pre-bid Meeting (Date & Time) : **22.02.2025 (12 Noon)**; Place of Pre-bid Meeting : **Office of the Director General, P&D Department, KMC 19, Nellie Sengupta Sarani, Kolkata-700087 Or VC link for Pre-Bid meeting (Online) : https://meet.google.com/rvu-pxaa-tpx**; Bid submission start date(Online) on : **03.03.2025 (11.30 am)**; Last date and time of submission of bid : **03.04.2025 (11.30 am)**; Bid opening date for Technical Proposals (Online) : **05.04.2025 (1 pm)**; The bid forms and other details are available on and from **11.02.2025 (4.30 pm)** from the website **https://wbtenders.gov.in**
1365/24-25

INBRIEF

President to visit Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj today

President Droupadi Murmu will visit the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Monday and take a holy dip at the Sangam, her office said. Maha Kumbh, which began on *Paush Purnima* (January 13), will continue till *Mahashivratri* on February 26. "During her day-long visit to Prayagraj, the President will take holy dip and perform puja at Sangam, perform puja and darshan at Akshayvat and Hanuman Mandir, and also visit the Digital Kumbh Anubhav Centre," the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a statement issued on Sunday. Sangam is the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the mystical Saraswati river. According to a Uttar Pradesh government release, Ms. Murmu will also offer prayers at the Akshayavat and Bade Hanuman Temple, accompanied by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Shinde extends financial aid to kin of Tukaram descendant

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has extended financial assistance of ₹32 lakh to the family of the late *kirtankar* (religious singer) Shrirish Maharaj More, who recently committed suicide due to financial distress. The decision was made on the occasion of Mr. Shinde's birthday. The amount was handed over to the family by MLA Vijay Shivtare on Mr. Shinde's behalf. Shrirish Maharaj More, a descendant of Sant Tukaram Maharaj and a renowned *kirtankar* from Dehu, took his own life last week after being overwhelmed by debt. In the note he left behind, More revealed that he was burdened with a loan of ₹32 lakh, which he was unable to repay, leading him to take the extreme step. *(Those struggling with distressing thoughts may call DISHA helpline at 1056)*

Global confidence in India's aerospace capabilities is growing, says Rajnath Singh

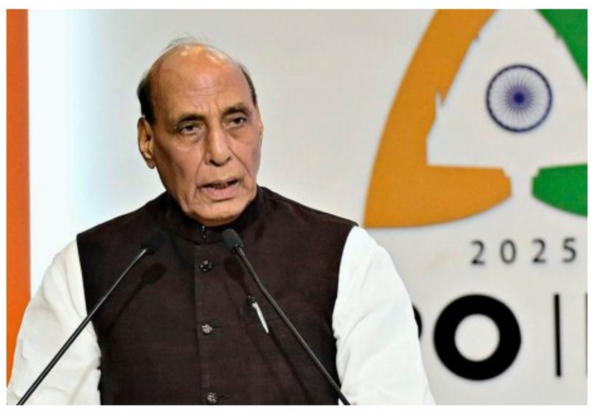
Defence Minister hails participation of over 90 countries in Aero India show; Defence Secretary says government hopeful that supply of LCA Tejas from 2025-26 would be as per the original plan

Dinakar Peri
BENGALURU

The light combat aircraft (LCA) production line has stabilised, not only at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) but also for General Electric (GE) engines, Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, said on Sunday.

"We are sure from 2025-26 onwards, LCA Tejas supply will be as per the original plan," he said. He also noted that the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Defence Ministry were discussing various approaches and that "appropriate options would be exercised" to keep the armed forces ready for all kinds of situations.

"We are committed to the advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA)... and simultaneously we would be considering all options to make our armed forces ready and prepared," Mr. Kumar said at the curtain-raiser press conference on Aero India, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru from February 10 to 14. He said that with the production line and engine issues having stabilised by 2025-26, 16 to 24 LCA would be delivered.



Charting progress: Rajnath Singh speaks at a press conference ahead of Aero India 2025, in Bengaluru on Sunday. MURALI KUMAR K.

"We are working with our American partner GE so that their supply gets streamlined in 2025-26 and going forward," he added.

Earlier in the day, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited HAL and saw the LCA-Mk1A jets, the deliveries of which have been delayed due to engine delays and other issues.

Amid delays in modernisation and falling fighter squadron strength, both the Russian Su-57 and American F-35, both fifth-generation fighters, will be present at Aero India.

This year's Aero India, in its 15th edition, is spread over a total area of over 42,000 sq. m, with the confirmed participation of 931 exhibitors, including 150 foreign companies, making it the biggest till date.

Mr. Rajnath Singh termed the participation of more than 90 countries a testament to the growing global confidence in India's aerospace and defence capabilities.

Record defence export

"Defence Ministers or representatives from about 30 countries have come to participate in this event. The presence of Air Chiefs and Secretaries from 43 countries further highlights the significance of this event – not just for India, but for the entire international defence community," the Minister said.

"When it comes to defence manufacturing, I am delighted to share that our domestic defence production has surpassed a record ₹1.27 lakh crore," Mr. Rajnath Singh said. "By the end of 2025-26, we expect this figure to exceed ₹1.60 lakh crore... Additionally, our defence exports have also crossed a record ₹21,000 crore, and by the end of 2025-26, we anticipate this figure to surpass ₹30,000 crore. I am confident that this event will further accelerate our journey toward self-reliance in defence production."

The event comprises the Defence Ministers' Conclave; a CEOs' roundtable; the inauguration of the India and iDEX Pavilions; a Manthan iDEX event; a Samarthya indigenisation event; a valedictory function; seminars; breathtaking air shows; and an exhibition by aerospace companies.

Mr. Singh will host the Defence Ministers' Conclave on February 11 in hybrid mode. The theme "Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement (BRIDGE)" underscores the importance of supply chain resilience and strategic collaboration in defence, officials said.

Aero India, biggest air show in Asia, to begin today in Bengaluru

Soaring high: Indian Air Force fighter jets perform during the final rehearsal ahead of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on Saturday. ANI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Starting Monday, the sound and sight of roaring military jets will rock the Bengaluru skies as the Aero India air show will kick off at the Yelahanka Air Force Station here.

The 15th edition of Asia's biggest air show will be inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in the presence of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The first three days are dedicated to business visitors, while the last two days are open to the general public.

Among the aircraft which will be on display are the fifth-generation fighter jet, the Su-57, from Russia, the F-35, the KC-135 Stratotanker, and B-1B Lancer from the U.S., and the multi-mission transport aircraft KC-390 Millennium from Brazil. While the Su-57 will be making its debut at the Aero India, this will be the second outing for the F-35 at the show.

"For the first time in history, Aero India 2025 will witness the participation of two of the world's most advanced fifth-generation fighter aircraft – the Russian Su-57 and the American F-35 Lightning II. It marks a milestone in global defence collaboration and technological advancement, offering aviation enthusiasts and defence experts an unparalleled prospect to witness these state-of-the-art warplanes," the Defence Ministry said.

Among the Indian aircraft and helicopters taking part in the show are the light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas, HJT 36, Hindustan Turbo Trainer (HTT-40), and the light utility helicopter. A functional full-scale engineering demonstrator of Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) Warrior developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. will also be showcased for the first time along with a full-scale model of the advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA), India's fifth-generation fighter jet.

In a first, chiefs of Air Force and Army fly together in light combat aircraft Tejas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh and Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi created history on Sunday as they flew together on the light combat aircraft Tejas on the eve of Aero India 2025.

The two service chiefs, who were course mates at the National Defence Academy in Pune, took off on a Tejas trainer aircraft from the Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, and landed a few minutes later upon completion of a successful sortie. This is the first time that two service chiefs were aboard a military jet.

Making waves: Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh, right, and General Upendra Dwivedi after taking a sortie in a Tejas on Sunday. PTI

General Dwivedi termed the flight the best moment of his life. Former Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat had also flown in the trainer version of the Tejas during Aero India 2019.

U.S. aircraft to be a major draw at Aero India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The fifth-generation F-35 fighter jet, the aerial refuelling tanker aircraft KC-135 Stratotanker, the B-1 supersonic heavy bomber, and F-16 fighter jets are among the aircraft from the U.S. that will be on display at the Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru.

This is the 15th time that the U.S. is participating in Asia's biggest air show, which will be held from February 10 to 14.

Supersonic flight: A view of the fifth generation F-35 fighter jet, which will be on display at Aero India 2025. AP

Over 20 exhibitors

At Aero India, more than two dozen U.S. exhibitors will engage with Indian counterparts, explore new business opportunities, and demonstrate innovative solutions in aviation and defence. These companies will display advancements in unmanned aerial systems, fighter aircraft, advanced avionics, and defence electronics.

Jorgan Andrews, Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, will lead the high-level delegation of representatives from the U.S. Departments of State, Defence, and Commerce.

"The United States is excited to once again participate in Aero India and to spotlight our strong defence ties with India. Our cooperation in defence, trade, and training is integral to our growing strategic partnership," Mr. Andrews said.

General Kevin Schneider, Commander, U.S. Pacific Air Forces; Brigadier-General Patrick Teague, senior defence official, U.S.'s Mission in India; and Consul-General Chris Hodges, U.S. Consulate General Chennai, will also be part of the U.S. delegation.

Deepened defence ties

Since Aero India 2023, the U.S. and India have deepened defence ties, including through technology innovation, expanded trade, and increased cooperation in maritime security, cybersecurity, logistics, and counter-terrorism operations.

General Schneider said: "Aero India 2025 is an ideal forum to showcase U.S. defence aircraft and equipment and ultimately contribute toward our compatibility and interoperability with other nations."

"The growth in Indian and U.S. bilateral defence trade has corresponded with growing interoperability through information sharing, liaison officers, training exercises, and defence enabling agreements. The importance of our partnership continues to grow, particularly as we face an increasingly complex and dynamic security environment in the Indo-Pacific," he added.

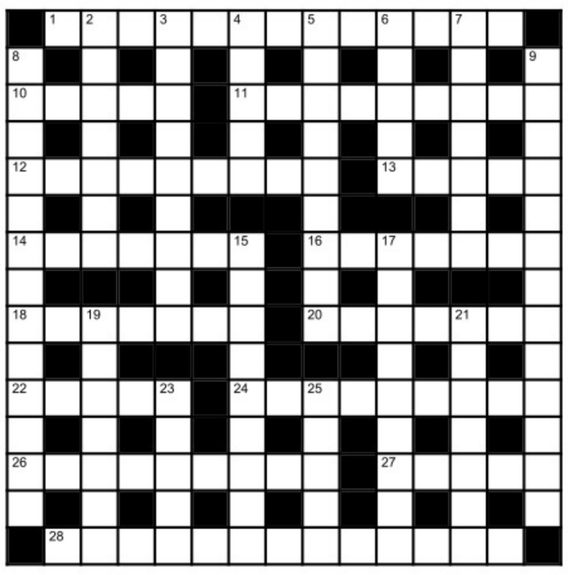
Final Approach, the 10-member ensemble of the the United States Air Force Band of the Pacific, will perform for the public at Aero India on February 13 and 14 and at 5 p.m. on February 11 at the Christ University auditorium.

TH CROSSWORD + 14404

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Got state transport, didn't like it at first (8,5)
10 Get them out in the next spell - both evacuated (5)
11 Dish for poor loser... in case (9)
12 Both sides accept only the French style, for example (4,5)
13 Indian city traffic millions follow (5)
14 At sea escort a small vessel (7)
16 Observes from the east-gets up to attack (3,4)
18 To be paid more than expected (7)
20 Order a state to consume Indian stuff (7)
22 Fish for Jack - he never ate any fat (5)
24 Demolished domes in UP - places to go on a trip (5,4)
26 Desperately clings to a wistful thought (9)
27 Talking about reality - some of it is bizarre (5)
28 Change of heart in love, provoke for doing a patch-up job (7,6)

Down

2 Carbon copy - everyone came up to see a star (7)
3 Came together to eat most of the fruit - that was never-ending (9)
4 Ran with one inside two parts of a circle (5)
5 Reveals record misses (9)
6 Insists one is not totally against (5)
7 Spinner gets to bowl to a hooker (7)
8 The green man could be found here (5,8)
9 Mrs. Lee manages to treat this viral disease (6,7)
15 Told to study, say 'heart of a music maker' (4,5)
17 To allow briefly to gather pace - a brave monument (5,4)
19 A sure shot - India borders on a supercontinent (7)
21 Support a black leader - send up some coffee (7)
23 Mark one in two (5)
25 Old South American preserved (5)

SUDOKU

2				3		8		4
	4		6			1		
8		3				9		7
			9	6	5			
	8			2			4	
			8	1	4			
5		8				4		2
		1			7		8	
7		2		8				5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS6426 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

T	I	E	U	P	S	A	R	T
R	A	R	O	S	E	S	N	R
E	N	I	G	M	A	T	I	C
M	T	P	R	O	E	I	I	A
B	A	R	R	A	G	E	N	A
L	E	D	T	S	N	S		
E	R	A	T	O	C	H	O	R
D	A	T	A	R				
D	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	M
Y	N	A	H	S	M	R	D	I
A	E	C	O	P	S	H	O	P
A	N	T	A	R	E	S	A	E
E	A	T	A	R	S	R	U	R
A	L	R	H	E	O	S	T	A
T	S	S	T	E	A	I	M	B
U	L	L	S	E	Y	E	N	E
W	E	S	T					

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	7	9	4	2	6	5	8
9	5	8	3	1	6	2	7	4
6	4	2	8	5	7	3	1	9
5	9	3	7	2	1	4	8	6
8	1	4	5	6	9	7	3	2
2	7	6	4	3	8	1	9	5
7	8	1	2	9	4	5	6	3
4	6	5	1	8	3	9	2	7
3	2	9	6	7	5	8	4	1

FAITH

Plight of Sita at Asokavana

Children will feel disgusted if anybody speaks ill of their parents, and a disciple will feel sorry if any slanders are hurled at his Guru. Devotees will become upset if anyone indulges in the vilification of God. A woman cannot tolerate any derogatory remarks about her husband.

Tenderness of heart, compassion of the extreme type, fidelity, wisdom of the most genuine kind, courage of the heart, and endurance are all qualities that make Sita a harmonious abode.

Sri Damodara Dikshitar said in a discourse that Sita was upset while kept captive at Asokavana. All that Sita looked upon was hateful, and all that she heard from Ravana was murderous in the extreme. Ravana and the demons not only threatened her but dispraised her beloved husband, Rama.

Sita felt her family was tormented like people struggling in a capsized boat. Sita told Ravana, "However independent I am, I did not get permission from Rama. Otherwise, I would burn and reduce you to ashes. It would be a disgrace to Rama if I had killed you." She said destiny would follow people in different forms, and it came to her through a golden deer.

Sita plunged into a sea of sorrow. She said she could not be separated from Rama. She advised Ravana not to violate dharma and tread the path of sin. She pleaded with Ravana to restore her to Rama, but Ravana paid no heed.

Sita lamented that she talked ill of Lakshmana and Bharatha and is suffering now. She bemoaned that Rama need not save her as her husband but as a personality in whom the blood of mercy runs.

Gold, silver on a roll

PRECIOUSMETALS

B Krishnakumar

Precious metals commenced the new year with a bang with both gold and silver closing on a strong note by the end of January 2025.

The sentiment towards precious metals turned positive on concerns relating to the wide-ranging tariff announced by the newly-elected President of the United States of America Donald Trump who took charge on January 20.

As a result, Comex gold moved to a record high crossing the psychological $2,800 mark. Comex silver is yet to hit an all-time high but managed to post handsome gains in January.

Comex gold closed 7.35% higher in January to settle at $2,835 an ounce. Comex silver gained 10.34% in January to close at $32.26 an ounce.

Reflecting the positive trend in the global markets, MCX gold gained 6.17% to settle at ₹82,233 per 10-gram at the end of January. MCX silver moved 7% higher last month to close at ₹93,328 per kilogram.

Resumes uptrend

Comex gold resumed its uptrend after the price registered a breakout from the prior range that the prices were confined to. The breakout imparted momentum to the uptrend and the pushed the Comex gold price to the target of $2,850-$2,900 mentioned last month. The short and medium-term outlook for gold remains positive.

Eyes $3,050-$3,100

The price is likely to head to the next target of $3,050-$3,100. The positive outlook for gold would be under threat only if the price closes below $2,580-$2,600 range.

Comex silver price, too, headed higher last month but the price is yet to cross the positive trigger level of $33 that was mentioned last month.

A move past this level would impart momentum to the upside and could push the silver price to the next target of $35.5-$36. The positive outlook would be invalidated on a close below $29. MCX gold price, too, managed to breakout from the prior trading range and the price hit a new all-time high a couple of days ago. The short-term trend as a result has turned positive and the price could now head to the next target of ₹88,500-₹89,500 range. The positive view would be negated if the price closes below ₹81,000.

Near all-time high

MCX silver price too ruled firm last month and the price is now trading near its all-time highs. The short-term outlook is positive and expect the silver price to reach the next target of ₹1,00,500-₹1,05,500. This expectation would be under threat if MCX price were to close below ₹86,500.

To summarise, the short and the medium-term outlook for both gold and silver has turned positive as the prices have resumed their major uptrend. The positive outlook would be invalidated only if the price drops below the levels mentioned above.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst and trader. The views and opinions featured in this column are based on an analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

ILLUSTRATION: SAAI

Market Downturn: Don't make these mistakes

Successful investing is not about timing the market perfectly or finding the next 'hot' stock. It is about building a diversified and carefully chosen portfolio with a huge margin of safety

AVOIDING PITFALLS

G.R.Balaji

> Investors often become overly focused on how much a stock has fallen from its peak, rather than considering its intrinsic value and future potential

> One of the most dangerous assumptions investors make during a correction is expecting rapid market recovery. Data shows recoveries can take a long time

Stockmarket corrections, like the one unfolding n recent months, can be challenging for investors. Yet, they also offer opportunities for those who navigate them wisely. Here are some common mistakes that hinder investors' ability to tap them.

*One of the most common errors investors make is viewing stocks solely from a drawdown perspective, the peak-to-trough decline in a specific period. While drawdowns can give signal some potential opportunities, fixating on them can lead to poor decision-making. Investors often become overly focused on how much a stock has fallen from its peak, rather than considering its intrinsic value and future potential. This can result in buying falling stocks as they appear cheap relative to previous highs. As we have seen over an extended bull market over the last four years, this mental framework can be deceptive.

*Another critical error investors often make during corrections is seeking value in the same places where they recently made huge gains like small- and micro-cap stocks, or "story-driven" stocks. While these can offer high growth potential, they also come with significant risks, especially during market downturns, as such firms often lack the financial stability and market depth to weather economic downturns.

This approach of investing only in aggressively rising themes of the market, is reflected in the inflow data of mutual funds, where many small and thematic funds raised a large corpus in the last three years. This meant investors were avoiding large-cap equities and other investment products, creating a portfolio imbalance.

Too many stocks

In recent years, the Indian stock market has seen a significant expansion, with over 1,000 new stocks added in five years, many of them representing novel business models. This poses challenge as attempting to follow too many stocks can lead to an information overload, making it difficult to take informed decisions. This "bandwidth issue" can result in hasty decisions based on incomplete information. Investors are advised to stick to a universe of stocks based on preferred criteria.

*One of the most dangerous assumptions investors can make during a correction is expecting a rapid market recovery. Historical data shows market recoveries can take considerable time, and portfolios focused on narrow themes or sectors may take even longer to regain ground.

In India, there have been several instances where market recoveries took longer than anticipated. The 2008 global financial crisis had triggered a drop of 50% for the market. The market only regained its pre-crisis level in 2010. More recently, the small cap index fell close to 50% during the 2018 meltdown, and took three years to hit a new high, reflecting the prolonged period to recover from it.

*Another mistake to avoid is overexposing portfolio to narrow themes, such as capex-related stocks or policy-related beneficiaries. They are vulnerable to policy changes and economic shifts.

For instance, the recent focus on public capex has led to an increased interest in infrastructure and related stocks. But capex growth has slowed this year, triggering a correction in some stocks.

*Investors are often trained to buy on dips. This has been successful at times. However, this strategy might not work well when the broader economy experiences challenges on growth and inflation, amid elevated stock valuations.

So, navigating market corrections needs discipline, patience and a clear understanding of such common pitfalls. By avoiding these mistakes, investors can position themselves to weather market downturns effectively. Successful investing is not about timing the market or finding the next "hot" stock. It is about building a diversified portfolio with lots of margin of safety, based on policies and rules laid down by you in alignment with your long-term financial goals.

By learning from past market cycles and avoiding common errors, investors can navigate corrections with greater confidence and set themselves up for long-term success. As Benjamin Graham said in 'The Intelligent Investor', "Whenever making money becomes effortlessly easy, keeping it is about to become extraordinary hard".

(The writer is a certified financial planner)

'Relief in tax slabs has stolen the limelight'

BUDGETGAZING

Sunil Badala

The Union Budget 2025 aims to unlock India's potential in its journey to become a developed nation by 2047. Over the years, the Government has introduced several reforms for ease of doing business and reducing compliances, such as faceless assessment, taxpayers' charter, faster processing of returns, and the Vivad se Vishwas scheme to settle disputes. Continuing with these efforts, a new Income Tax Bill is proposed to provide tax certainty, simplification and reduce tax litigation.

Of course, what has stolen the limelight is the relief in the tax slabs which has overshadowed all the other announcements. This was a long pending ask of the middle class and the enhancement of tax exemption limits will promote more liquidity, boosting household consumption, savings, investment, and uplift the overall sentiment of the middle class.

Ease of doing business

Rationalisation of TDS / TCS provisions for ease of doing business is another long pending ask which has been addressed. The extension of the date of set up of operations, till 2030, have been proposed for several sectors in the IFSC - like ship and aircraft leasing - which should give investors a good long term horizon view. Rationalisation of provisions for arms-length price determination should also help in certainty and reducing litigation. Other tax amendments focus on increasing voluntary compliance by extending the time limit to file updated tax returns up to four years, support to the startup ecosystem by extending the sunset date by another five years, introducing compliance obligations for crypto assets, and harmonization of provisions of significant economic presence in India. A few key tax expectations which did not find mention were implementation of the OECD's BEPS 2.0 - Global Minimum Tax, extension of the sunset date for new manufacturing companies and weighted deduction for R&D spends.

Consistency in GST changes

Most proposed GST amendments align with ensuring consistency without major surprises, including the retrospective change that tightens legal provisions by explicitly changing "plant or machinery" to "plant and machinery". This is in line with the government's intent to disallow input tax credit on the construction of immovable property; however, its future impact remains to be seen. The decision to not treat vouchers as goods or services, thereby exempting them from GST, offers welcome relief to industry. Several steps have been unveiled to streamline compliance, support local firms and recalibrate import duties. The Budget is a testament to India's commitment to foster a balanced and sustainable economic environment. The successful implementation of its various initiatives will be crucial.

(The writer is Head of Tax, KPMG in India)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.10	7.25	7.50	7.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.10	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.38	6.00	6.75	6.25
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.20
NorthEast Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.00	9.00	8.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.25	8.25	8.60
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.85	8.15	8.15
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.75
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.25	6.70	7.10	7.00
Bandhan Bank	8.05	8.05	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	8.00	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	8.05	7.10	8.05	8.05
Federal Bank	7.50	7.00	7.10	7.10
HDFC Bank	7.40	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.25	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.90	6.50	6.80	6.75
IndusInd Bank	7.99	7.75	7.25	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.00	7.00	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.60	7.00	7.00	7.00
Karnataka Bank	7.50	7.25	6.50	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.40	7.10	7.00	6.20
RBL Bank	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.10
SBM Bank India	8.25	7.05	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.40	6.70	6.70	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.60	7.00	6.50	6.50
YES Bank	8.00	7.75	7.25	7.25
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.30	6.85	7.15	6.80
Bank of India	7.30	6.80	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.45	6.75	6.50	6.50
Canara Bank	7.40	6.85	7.40	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.50	6.85	7.00	6.75
Indian Bank	7.30	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.30	7.10	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.80	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.45	6.30	6.00	6.00
State Bank of India	7.25	6.80	6.75	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.30	6.80	6.70	6.50

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.50-9.85	8.50-9.85	8.50-9.85
Bank of Baroda	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.65	8.40-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.30-10.75	8.30-10.90	8.30-10.90
Punjab National Bank	8.45-10.25	8.40-10.15	8.40-10.15
Bank of India	8.35-10.85	8.35-10.85	8.35-11.10
Canara Bank	8.50-11.25	8.45-11.25	8.40-11.15
UCO Bank	8.30 #	8.30 #	8.30 #
Bank of Maharashtra	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15	8.35-11.15
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00	8.50-10.00
Indian Overseas Bank	8.40-11.00	8.40-11.00	8.40-11.00
Indian Bank	8.40-9.80	8.40-9.80	8.40-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
ICICI Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Axis Bank	8.75-13.30	8.75-13.30	8.75-9.65
HSBC Bank	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
South Indian Bank	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
Karur Vysya Bank	9.00-11.05	9.00-11.05	9.00-11.05
Karnataka Bank	8.79-10.91	8.79-10.91	8.79-9.44
Federal Bank	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95
Bandhan Bank	9.16-15.00	9.16-13.33	9.16-13.33
RBL Bank	9.00 #	9.00 #	9.00 #
CSB Bank	10.49-12.34	10.49-12.34	10.49-12.34
HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
City Union Bank	8.25-9.50	8.50-10.00	8.75-10.50
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
Tata Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 #	10.00 #	10.00 #
Aditya Birla Capital	8.60 #	8.60 #	8.60 #
ICICI Home Finance	9.30 #	9.30 #	9.30 #
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 #	8.55 #	8.55 #

#Onwards Rates as on February 5 Source:Paisabazaar.com

TULKAREM

Israeli forces kill two women in West Bank; one victim pregnant

AFP

Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank shot dead two women on Sunday, including one who was eight months' pregnant, with the military saying it had "targeted terrorists" in a raid. The raid was conducted in the Nur Shams refugee camp, on the outskirts of Tulkarem in the northern West Bank, at dawn on Sunday. AFP

TEHRAN

Displacement of Palestinians threatens West Asia, says Iran

AFP

Iran Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Donald Trump's plan to move Palestinians out of the Gaza Strip represents a threat to stability and security in West Asia. "Forcibly displacing Palestinians from Gaza is part of a scheme to eliminate Palestine in a colonial manner," he told his Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty. AFP

SEOUL

N. Korea's Kim slams partnership between U.S., South Korea, Japan

REUTERS

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said an elevated U.S. security partnership with South Korea and Japan poses a grave threat to his country and vowed to bolster his nuclear weapons programme. Kim has previously made similar warnings, but his latest remark implies again that the he won't embrace Trump's overture to meet him. AP

WINDHEOK

Namibian independence leader Sam Nujoma dies aged 95

AP

Namibia's founding father Sam Nujoma, who led his country's fight for independence from South Africa, died on Saturday aged 95, the presidency announced. Nujoma had been hospitalised over the past three weeks, battling an illness from which he "could not recover", President Nangolo Mbumba said in a statement. AFP

Israeli forces withdraw from a key Gaza corridor

Associated Press
MUGHRAQA

Israeli forces withdrew from a key Gaza corridor on Sunday, Israeli officials and Hamas said, part of Israel's commitments under a truce deal with Hamas.

Israel agreed as part of the truce to remove its forces from the six-kilometre Netzarim corridor, a strip of land that bisects northern Gaza from the south that Israel used as a military zone during the war.

At the start of the ceasefire last month, Israel began allowing Palestinians to cross Netzarim to head to their homes in the war-battered north. The withdrawal of forces from the area fulfills another commitment to the deal.

Will do the job of executing Trump's Gaza plan: Israel PM

Netanyahu says the U.S. President's proposal for relocating Gazans is the first fresh idea in years; he says 'the real issue' is finding a country that will agree to take in the displaced population

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has hailed U.S. President Donald Trump's widely criticised plan to move Palestinians out of the war-battered Gaza Strip, saying Israel is willing to "do the job".

In a *Fox News* interview aired late on Saturday as the Premier was wrapping up a visit to Washington, Mr. Netanyahu defended Mr. Trump's proposal, which has sparked concern and condemnation across the Middle East [West Asia] and the world.

"I think that President Trump's proposal is the first fresh idea in years, and it has the potential to change everything in Gaza," Mr. Netanyahu said, adding that it represents a "correct approach" to the future of the Palestinian territory.

Constant pressure: Protesters demand 'relocation for the hostages', in Tel Aviv on Friday. GETTY IMAGES

"All Trump is saying, 'I want to open the gate and give them an option to relocate temporarily while we rebuild the place physically'," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Mr. Trump "never said he wants American troops to do the job. Guess what? We'll do the job," Mr. Netanyahu declared.

'Departure from old'

Mr. Netanyahu said Mr. Trump's plan was a departure from the "same old, same old, same old – we leave, Gaza becomes again occupied by these terrorists who use it as a base to attack Israel."

"I think we should pursue it," he added, cautioning that "the real issue" was finding a country that would agree to take in displaced Gazans.

Netanyahu's 'Palestinian state on Saudi land' remark flayed

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries on Sunday condemned remarks by Israel's Prime Minister who appeared to suggest in an interview that a Palestinian state could be established on Saudi territory.

Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks, which some Israeli media characterised as a joke, came with the region already on edge following Mr. Trump's proposal for relocating Gazans.

Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul Gheit said Sunday that the thinking behind Mr. Netanyahu's remarks "is unacceptable and reflects a complete detachment from reality", adding that such ideas "are nothing more than mere fantasies or illusions".

The Saudi foreign ministry stressed "its categorical rejection to such statements".

Dire straits: A Gaza resident poses in front of his destroyed home in Jabalia in the northern part of the Strip on Saturday, AFP

In a television interview on Thursday, right-wing Israeli journalist Yaakov Bardugo was discussing with Mr. Netanyahu the prospect of diplomatic normalisation with Saudi Arabia when he appeared to misspeak, attributing to Riyadh the stance that there would be "no progress without a Saudi state".

"Palestinian state?" Mr. Netanyahu corrected him.

"Unless you want the Palestinian state to be in Saudi Arabia," the Israeli premier quipped. "They (the Saudis) have plenty of territory."

Mr. Bardugo responded that he did "not rule this out".

After demolition of Mujib's house, focus shifts to party launch of student activists

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

With the demolition of the historic 32 Dhanmondi, the official residence of Bangladesh founder Mujibur Rahman that represented the birth of Bangladesh in 1971, the student-coordinators of Bangladesh politics have flexed their muscles. The incident comes at a time when the student coordinators have announced their intent to launch a new political party.

The demolition of 32 Dhanmondi took place more than a month after the students, a major force behind the interim government, attempted to "bury" the constitution of Bangladesh. The student coordinators had called for a massive rally on December 31, 2024, arguing that they would announce the "July Proclamation" to formalise the political charter of the uprising that led to the overthrow of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

That attempt was led by coordinators Hasnat Abdullah and Sarjis Alam of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement but the move fizzled out as the claim of "burying" the constitution prompted some behind the scene activities as well as open criticism by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). To deal with the student activists, the interim government of Prof. Mohammad Yunus had also announced that it would formulate its own July Proclamation by 15 January 2025 which however did not materialise.

The demolition of 32 Dhanmondi was seen largely as a sign that Hasnat Abdullah had the ability to mobilise thousands of foot soldiers. Subsequently, social media videos have surfaced showing Mr. Hasnat calling for "mob justice" while dealing with the student activists of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League. The Chhatra League of Awami League, a major wing of Awami League was banned in October 2024 but the organisation has been indicating its existence in the mobilisation of minority communities in Bangladesh as well as in country-wide pamphlet distribution programmes defending exiled PM Sheikh Hasina.

The demolition of 32 Dhanmondi was seen as a sign that student leaders had the ability to mobilise thousands of foot soldiers. AP

Real intent

Student coordinators' increasing influence has raised questions about the real intent as leaders of both the BNP and the Awami League are out of Dhaka with Mr. Hasina and her top lieutenants in exile and BNP's top leader Khaleda Zia travelling abroad for medical reasons.

Hasnat Abdullah announced on February 5 that the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement and the National Citizens Committee will launch a new "moderate political" party during the current month. "Our points in the mass uprising were the elimination of fascism, the formation of a new political settlement, a new state structure, institutionalising democracy, and building a Bangladesh with equality, human dignity, and social justice. Our work remains unfinished," Mr. Abdullah said at a press conference on February 5.

The growing incidence of mob justice mostly by opponents of Sheikh Hasina have drawn strong criticism also from the BNP. On Sunday, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, BNP's powerful general secretary said, "Darkness cannot be removed by another form of darkness. It must be dispelled with light." The incident in Gazipur has highlighted the political activities of the student coordinators who are in the midst of a week-long campaign on the formation of the new political party which is expected to concretise by February 21 when Bangladesh will mark the Language Movement Day in memory of its 1952 language movement martyrs.

New Delhi's remarks are unwarranted, says Dhaka

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Asserting that the demolition of the residence of Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the country's internal matter, the interim government on Sunday said India's remarks on the incident was "unexpected and unwarranted".

India on Thursday voiced anguish over the destruction of the historic residence, and said the "act of vandalism" should be strongly condemned.

India's remark

"It is regrettable that the historic residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a symbol of the heroic resistance of the people of Bangladesh against the forces of occupation and oppression, was destroyed on February 5," External Affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had said.

Reacting to India's remarks, Bangladesh Foreign Ministry on Sunday said the incident at Dhanmondi 32 pertains to the country's internal affairs, state-run BSS news agency reported.

"A statement from India's Ministry of External Affairs on this matter, issued on February 6, 2025, has come to the attention of the interim government. Such remarks from India's foreign ministry on Bangladesh's internal affairs are unexpected and unwarranted," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mohammad Rafiqul Alam was quoted as saying by BSS.

"Bangladesh does not officially comment on the internal affairs of any state, and it expects the same level of conduct from others," he said.

THE HINDU GROUP

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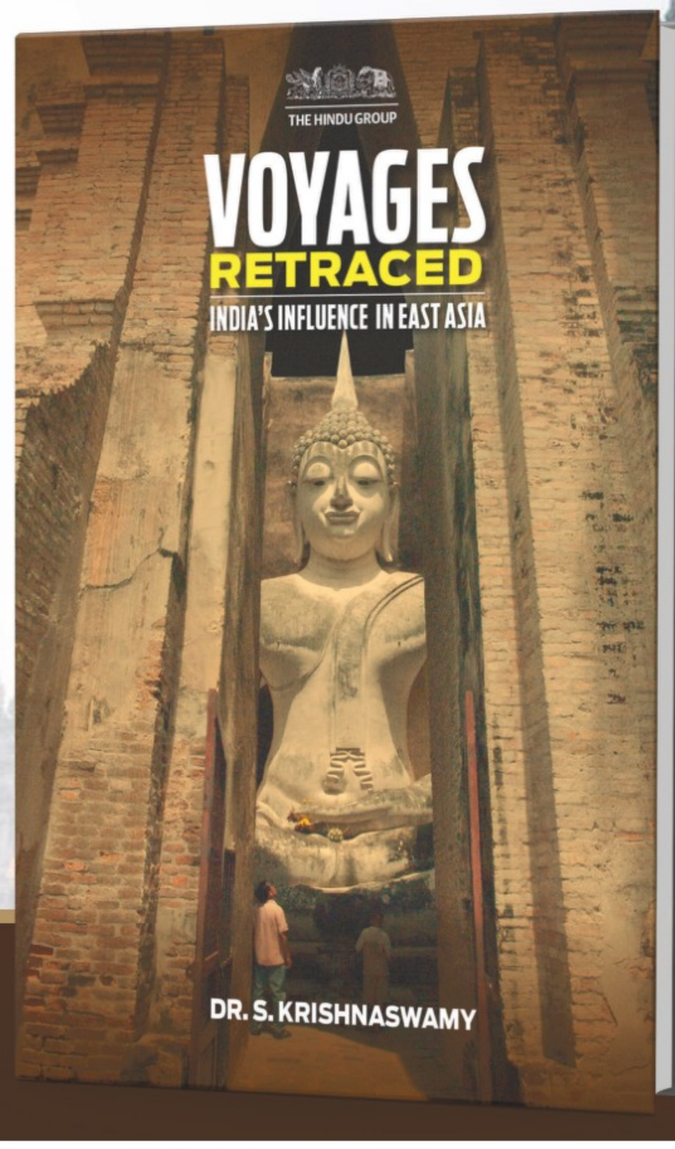

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SUPER SUNDAY

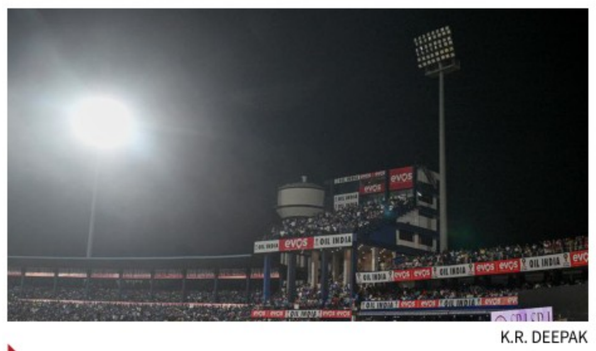
Rohit becomes fourth-highest run-getter for India in ODIs

K.R. DEEPAK

Rohit Sharma, in his 50th ODI as India captain, scored 119 against England on Sunday. He became the fourth-highest run-getter (10,987) for India in the 50-over format, overtaking Rahul Dravid (10,889). Sachin Tendulkar (18,426), Virat Kohli (13,911) and Sourav Ganguly (11,363) occupy the top three spots.

LIGHTS OFF

Floodlight failure halts proceedings in Cuttack



K.R. DEEPAK

Play in the second India-England ODI in the over six-decade-old Barabati Stadium was stopped as one of the six towers of the floodlights malfunctioned. The incident happened when the tower adjacent to the iconic clock tower malfunctioned, resulting in a brief stoppage at 6.15 p.m. The lights were restored at 6.45 p.m.

TRUST

Indian dressing room has always backed skipper Rohit, says Jadeja

K.R. DEEPAK

Ravindra Jadeja showered praise on skipper Rohit Sharma. "The entire world may be behind him but in our dressing room, there was no such atmosphere. He is such a great player that he knows exactly how to build his innings. It didn't even feel like he hadn't scored runs in the previous innings," Jadeja said on Sunday.

TERRIFIC TOUR

Australia wins second Test, secures series sweep against Sri Lanka

GETTY IMAGES

Australia wrapped up a dominant 2-0 sweep of the Test series against Sri Lanka at Galle on Sunday, romping to a nine-wicket victory before lunch on day four. **The scores**: Sri Lanka 257 & 231 in 68.1 overs (Matthews 76, Kusal 50; Kuhnemann 4/63, Lyon 4/84) vs Australia 414 & 75/1 in 17.4 overs. **PoM**: Carey. **PoS**: Smith.

Rohit roars back to form as Team India thrashes England, seals series in style

The skipper's 32nd ODI century helps the Men in Blue chase down a target of 305 with ease; Gill proves able foil with a stroke-filled half-century

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Y.B. Sarangi
CUTTACK

Rohit Sharma shone bright in the Silver City to end a prolonged lean patch with a magnificent hundred and guide India to a convincing four-wicket win against England in the second ODI and seal the three-match series at the Barabati Stadium here on Sunday.

Electing to bat, England relied on Ben Duckett and Joe Root's fifties to score a challenging 304. India rode on skipper Rohit's breezy knock (119, 90b, 12x4, 7x6) to cruise to the target and delight the home fans in the run-up to the Champions Trophy.

Opening the innings with Shubman Gill, Rohit broke the shackles off the seventh ball he faced by charging down and getting a four in the third-man region. Showcasing his old touch, the India captain flicked the next delivery over midwicket for a six to a rousing approval from a partisan crowd.

A lofted shot over cover and a stunning straight-batted six off Saqib Mahmood in consecutive overs underlined Rohit's class. His riveting tale of revival, relying on his self-belief, dwarfed the lanky Gill's graceful half-century (60, 52b, 9x4, 1x6). The 100-ball 136-run opening stand featured some glorious strokes on the leg-side.

Rohit, who did not lose his focus despite an interruption due to floodlights malfunction, played trademark shots on both sides of the wicket. Virat Kohli, who replaced Yashasvi Jaiswal after missing the first ODI due to a knee problem, took guard much to the delight of his fans.

Demolition man: Rohit's blistering 119 snuffed out England's challenge. K.R. DEEPAK

Kohli lasted just eight balls before DRS overturned the on-field umpire's decision and ruled him caught behind.

Rohit continued to light up the night sky with his blitzkrieg and brought up his 32nd hundred in style by stepping out and hoisting leg-spinner Adil Rashid for a six over long-off. His dazzling performance ended when he skied Liam Livingstone to mid-wicket.

India lost Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul and Hardik Pandya before Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja finished the task.

Earlier, England openers Duckett and Phil Salt batted smartly as they played the ball late and found the gaps to post their third 50-plus partnership on the trot.

Varun breaks through

Debutant spinner Varun Chakaravarthy provided the breakthrough in his second over. Salt, let off on six, mistimed one and Jadeja took a high catch at mid-on in the 11th over.

Southpaw Duckett (65, 56b, 10x4), who cut, pulled and flicked, fell shortly after England crossed 100.

The accurate Jadeja, who kept it tight, struck in his opening over as Duckett found Hardik at long-on.

Joe Root (69, 72b, 6x4), who survived two lbw shouts, and Harry Brook forged a 66-run stand.

Harshit Rana broke the association as Gill ran to his right from mid-off to pluck a spectacular catch and send back Brook.

Root, who pulled and reverse-swept with elan, and Jos Buttler added 51 off 53 deliveries. Hardik removed Buttler with Gill taking a low catch at mid-off.

Root scooped one to Kohli at long-off and Jamie Overton was caught by Gill – the fielder's third of the night – as Jadeja completed his three-for.

Livingstone's cameo took England past the 300-mark but it wasn't enough once Rohit found his range.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Phil Salt c Jadeja b Varun 26 *(29b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ben Duckett c Hardik b Jadeja 65 *(56b, 10x4)*, Joe Root c Kohli b Jadeja 69 *(72b, 6x4)*, Harry Brook c Gill b Harshit 31 *(52b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Jos Buttler c Gill b Hardik 34 *(35b, 2x4)*, Liam Livingstone run out 41 *(32b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Jamie Overton c Gill b Jadeja 6 *(10b)*, Gus Atkinson c Kohli b Shami 3 *(7b)*, Adil Rashid run out 14 *(5b, 3x4)*, Mark Wood run out 0 *(1b)*, Saqib Mahmood (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-12): 15; Total (in 49.5 overs): 304.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-81 (Salt, 10.5 overs), 2-102 (Duckett, 15.5), 3-168 (Brook, 29.4), 4-219 (Buttler, 38.4), 5-248 (Root, 42.3), 6-258 (Overton, 44.6), 7-272 (Atkinson, 47.1), 8-297 (Rashid, 48.5), 9-304 (Livingstone, 49.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Shami 7.5-0-66-1, Harshit 9-0-62-1, Hardik 7-0-53-1, Varun 10-0-54-1, Jadeja 10-1-35-3, Axar 6-0-32-0.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Rashid b Livingstone 119 *(90b, 12x4, 7x6)*, Shubman Gill b Overton 60 *(52b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli c Salt b Rashid 5 *(8b, 1x4)*, Shreyas Iyer run out 44 *(47b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Axar Patel (not out) 41 *(43b, 4x4)*, K.L. Rahul c Salt b Overton 10 *(14b, 1x4)*, Hardik Pandya c Overton b Atkinson 10 *(6b, 2x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 11 *(7b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-7): 8; Total (for six wkts. in 44.3 overs): 308.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-136 (Gill, 16.4), 2-150 (Kohli, 19.3), 3-220 (Rohit, 29.4), 4-258 (Shreyas, 36.6), 5-275 (Rahul, 40.4), 6-286 (Hardik, 41.6).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Mahmood 6-0-36-0, Atkinson 7-0-65-1, Wood 8-0-57-0, Rashid 10-0-78-1, Overton 5-0-27-2, Livingstone 7-0-29-1, Root 1.3-0-15-0.

Toss: England; **PoM:** Rohit.

India won by four wickets with 33 balls remaining to lead three-match series 2-0.

Third and final ODI: February 12, Ahmedabad, 1.30 p.m.

Stunning run: Maharashtra's Aishwarya broke her own women's 400m National Games record while winning. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Quartermiler Aishwarya triumphs

NATIONAL GAMES

Stan Rayan
DEHRADUN

Quartermiler Aishwarya Mishra has thrown up many surprises in the past. She has skipped meets and then popped up with some very fast times, but on Sunday she produced a season-opening stunner that virtually knocked out everybody watching her in the 38th National Games athletics competition at the Ganga Stadium here.

The 24-year-old from Maharashtra clocked a personal best 51.12s – the fourth-fastest Indian time ever – while winning the 400m gold by a huge margin and breaking her own three-year-old National Games record by more than one second.

Vithya Ramraj, the defending champion, was more than three seconds behind for the silver.

"I couldn't believe that I have run a personal best, I really thought it would be something like 52s. I was like in a trance for five to 10 minutes," Aishwarya, the Asian silver medallist, told *The Hindu*.

"It felt like I was running 300m, not in 400. I'm very happy about that."

Nobody, not even National record-holder Hima Das (record 50.79s, Jakarta Asian Games 2018) has started the season like this.

Are there bigger things coming as the season gets into full swing?

"I'm hoping to break the National record if everything goes well," said Aishwarya whose previous best (51.18) came in April 2022.

Aishwarya said she had been training at Dehradun for the last 20 days.

Meanwhile, Odisha's Bapi Hansda bettered his personal best while winning the men's 400m, whereas Maharashtra's Tejas Shirse and Andhra Pradesh's Asian champion Jyothi Yarraji broke their own Games records while taking the men's and women's sprint hurdles gold.

"Not really happy, I was expecting 12.7 or 12.8... I'm in good shape, but sometimes things don't work out the way we want. But I'm glad I competed here," said Jyothi.

The results:

Athletics: Men: 400m: 1. Bapi Hansda (Odi) 46.82s, 2. Vikrant Panchal (Har) 46.92, 3. T.S. Manu (Ker) 47.08. **110m hurdles:** 1. Tejas Shirse (Mah) 13.65s MR, OR own 13.71, 2015; 2. Manav Rajanarayanan (TN) 14.03, 3. Muhammed Lazan (Ker) 14.23. **High jump:** 1. Aadarsh Ram (TN) 2.14m, 2. Swadhin Kumar (Odi) 2.11, 3. Sudeep (Kar) 2.08. **4x100m relay:** 1. Odisha (39.47s MR, OR 39.94, 2011), 2. Tamil Nadu (40.08), 3. Kerala (40.73). **Decathlon:** 1. N. Thowfeeq (Ker) 6915 pts, 2. Yamandeep Sharma (Raj) 6831, 3. Rohit Roman (AP) 6753.

Women: 400m: 1. Aishwarya Mishra (Mah) 51.12s MR, OR own 52.20; 2. Vithya Ramraj (TN) 54.43, 3. Devyaniba Zala (Guj) 54.44. **100m hurdles:** 1. Jyothi Yarraji (AP) 13.10s MR, OR own 13.22 2023; 2. Moumita Mondal (WB) 13.36, 3. Nithya Ramraj (TN) 13.60. **Long jump:** 1. Moumita Mondal (WB) 6.21m, 2. Sandra Babu (Ker) 6.12, 3. Deepanshi Singh (UP) 6.11. **Javelin throw:** 1. Jyoti Rakesh (Har) 55.55m, 2. Karishma Sanil (Kar) 55.55, 3. Ramyashree Jain (Kar) 54.85. **4x100m relay:** 1. Karnataka (45.99s), 2. Kerala (4.04), 3. Telangana (47.58). **Tennis: Women's doubles semifinals:** Vaidehee Chaudhari & Zeel Desai (Guj) bt Anjali Rathi & Aditi Tyagi (Har) 6-1, 7-6 (5); Pooja Ingale & Akansha Nitture (Mah) Diya Chaudhary & Jaya Kapoor (Utk) 5-7, 6-4, 1–8.

Fiery Teichmann rules the day

MUMBAI OPEN WTA 125

Tarun Shastry
MUMBAI

In a showdown of contrasting styles, Switzerland's Jil Teichmann's aggressive game trumped Thailand's Mananchaya Sanwangkaew's deft touches at the Cricket Club of India on Sunday. The 27-year-old former World No. 21 overwhelmed Sawangkaew 6-3, 6-4 in the final to clinch the L&T Mumbai Open WTA 125 title.

Teichmann.

Teichmann took the opening game of the first set with a combination of net play, powerful serves, and solid forehands. The 22-year-old Thai, currently ranked 121, responded well, hitting a stunning ace to level. However, the relentless Teichmann quickly asserted her dominance, showcasing remarkable stamina. She dominated rallies, producing stunning cross-court shots and backhand winners. Her perfectly executed serves down the 'T' was a key weapon, helping her win four consecutive games to establish a 5-1 lead. Sawangkaew refused to back down. In the seventh game, after a series of amazing rallies, she broke Teichmann and then held serve with a superb lob, earning a thumbs-up and smile from her opponent.

Teichmann stopped her from making a comeback and sealed the first set 6-3.

The second began on similar lines, with the left-hander breaking Sawangkaew's serve early to lead 1-0. She continued her dominance, producing a stunning forehand winner to double her lead.

Sawangkaew bounced back by winning three consecutive games to make it 3-3. However, Teichmann held firm with her exceptional groundstrokes to win the final with relative ease in straight sets.

Earlier in the doubles final, the Indo-Dutch duo of Prarthana Thombare and Arianne Hartono went down to Amina Anshba and Elena Pridankina 7-6 (4), 6-2, [10-7].

Buoyed by French support, Jacquet pockets the title

CHENNAI OPEN

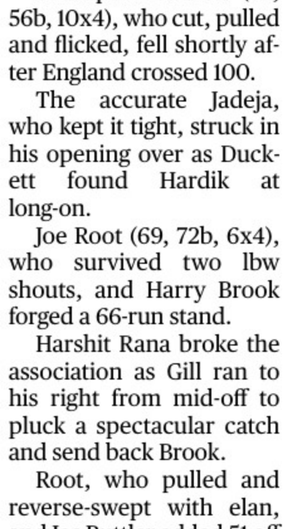
S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Kyrian Jacquet ensured that it was a rather memorable maiden visit to the SDAT tennis stadium for budding nine-year-old fan Tamara, as the Frenchman beat Swede Elias Ymer 7-6 (1), 6-4 in the final to clinch the Chennai Open ATP Challenger title here on Sunday.

Buoyed by the support from his compatriots in the stands, he earned $22,730 and 100 ranking points.

Jacquet banked on his strengths - slicing often to break his opponent's rhythm and rushing the net for winners.

The 23-year-old hit three successive backhand slices in a 17-stroke rally when he was 4-3 up in the first set. He later produced the most spectacular stroke of the match: a mid-air between-the-legs volley.



Jacquet. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

It helped Jacquet that his opponent was alarmingly error-prone. Jacquet won the first set tie-break 7-1, courtesy of Ymer's six unforced errors. The champion played a forehand cross-court pass to Ymer's drop from the net for his first point. Ymer won his sole point when Jacquet double-faulted.

From there, Ymer made at least 13 unforced errors, including a double fault, until he was down 1-4 in the second set.

He caught up and made it 4-4, before making three unforced mistakes to help his opponent hold serve without losing a point. He saved a match point in the next game but double-faulted immediately after for Jacquet to break serve and win the championship.

"I would like to dedicate this title to my grandfather who passed away in December," said Jacquet.

Record breaker: Andhra's Jyothi bettered her women's 100m hurdles mark on her way to gold. RITU RAJ KONWAR

INBRIEF

UP Warriorz names Deepti as skipper in place of Healy

UP Warriorz on Sunday named all-rounder Deepti Sharma as its captain for WPL 2025 after regular skipper Alyssa Healy was ruled out of the tournament with a foot injury. The 27-year-old has previous experience in captaincy as well, leading Bengal and East Zone in domestic matches. Deepti had also led Velocity in the Women's T20 Challenge, a precursor to the WPL.

Manas Dhamne clinches the title in Monastir

Qualifier Manas Dhamne beat Lorenzo Carboni of Italy 2-6, 6-0, 6-2 in the final of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Monastir, Tunisia. It was the maiden title in the professional circuit for the 17-year-old Manas. Manas had beaten the top seed Alberto Camposo of Spain for the loss of five games in the semifinals.

Other result: Semifinals: Manas bt Alberto Campos (Esp) 6-4, 6-3.

Sindhu pulls out of BAMTC due to hamstring issue

P.V. Sindhu has pulled out of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships (BAMTC) in China due to a hamstring issue, dealing a big blow to the country's chances of improving the colour of its medal in the prestigious tournament, to be played from February 11 to 16. Sindhu was part of the squad that won bronze in previous edition.

Meronk takes Riyadh title, Lahiri finishes tied 12th

Anirban Lahiri shot a bogey-free 3-under 69 (11-under overall) and finished tied 12th at the opening event of the Liv Golf Series in Riyadh on Sunday. Adrian Meronk finished with a 71 (17-under) despite back-to-back bogeys to triumph.

RANJI QUARTERFINALS - DAY 2

At Nagpur: Vidarbha 353 in 121.1 overs (Danish Malewar 75, Karun Nair 122, Harsh Dubey 69) vs. Tamil Nadu 159/6 in 46 overs (Andre Siddarth 65, Aditya Thakare 4/18).
At Pune: J&K 280 in 95.1 overs (Kanhaiya Wadhawan 48, Lone Nasir 44, M.D. Nidheesh 6/75) vs. Kerala 200/9 in 63 overs (Jalaj Saxena 67, Salman Nizar 49 batting, Auqib Nabi 5/36).
At Kolkata: Mumbai 315 in 88.2 overs (Shams Mulani 91, Tanush Kotian 97) vs. Haryana 263/5 in 72 overs (Ankit Kumar 136).
At Rajkot: Saurashtra 216 in 72.1 overs vs. Gujarat 260/4 in 95 overs (Manan Hingrajia 83, Jaimeet Patel 88 batting).

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Quarterfinals, JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
Tri-series: 2nd ODI, New Zealand vs South Africa, FanCode, 10 a.m.
Zimbabwe vs Ireland: Only Test, day 5, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Aditya Thakare's incisive spell puts Vidarbha on the ascendancy

Pacer's four for 18 rattles Tamil Nadu before Andre's knock steadies the ship; Karun, Harsh help host cross the 300-run mark

RANJI TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
NAGPUR

Vidarbha pacer Aditya Thakare (12-2-18-4) produced a high-quality display of fast bowling and blew the Tamil Nadu top-order away to bowl his side into a strong position on the second day of the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal clash here at the VCA ground on Sunday.

Thakare was relentless with his line and length probing around the off-stump and struck thrice in his first six overs. He then returned to break a crucial 95-run fifth-wicket partnership between C. Andre Siddharth (65) and Vijay Shankar when he had the latter caught behind. At stumps, the visitor was tottering at 159 for six in reply to the home team's first-innings total of 353.

Strike force: Thakare's four-wicket haul gave Vidarbha the upper hand. R.V. MOORTHY

Thakare struck in his first over pegging back opener Mohammed Ali's off-stump. He then had B. Sai Sudharsan - who cut one straight to backward point - before removing M. Boopathi Vaishna Kumar caught behind in his next over. The 18-year-old Andre, playing in his maiden season, walked in with his team in dire straits at 38 for four and played a brilliant counter-attacking knock to get his side back on track.

From the moment he got off the mark by flicking Bhutte nonchalantly over mid-wicket, Andre oozed style and class as he wielded his willow like a sword. He drove imperiously down the ground and was equally adept off the back-foot, cutting and punching anything slightly short. He brought up his half-century in style off just 58 balls, lofting Bhutte down the ground for a huge six.

Earlier, the hosts' overnight batters Karun Nair (122) and Harsh Dubey (69) started the day positively against some ordinary bowling. Karun was severe on anything short, deploying his cut and pull shots to find the fence while Dubey scored his fourth half-century of the season to take the team past 300.

TN came back in the final hour of the first session to bowl out Akshay Wadkar's side at the stroke of lunch.

The scores:

Vidarbha — 1st innings: Atharva Taide c Ajith Ram b Mohammed 0, Dhruv Shorey c & b Vijay Shankar 26, Aditya Thakare c Sai Kishore b Sonu Yadav 5, Danish Malewar c Mohammed b Vijay Shankar 75, Karun Nair b Sonu Yadav 122, Yash Rathod st. Jagadeesan b Mohamed Ali 13, Akshay Wadkar c Jagadeesan b Ajith Ram 24, Harsh Dubey c Sai Sudharsan b Vijay Shankar 69, Nachiket Bhute c Boopathi b Sonu Yadav 4, Yash Thakur lbw b Mohammed 2, Akshay Wakhare (not out) 1; Extras (b-4, lb-5, w-2, nb-1): 12; Total (in 121.1 overs): 353.

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-25, 3-44, 4-142, 5-167, 6-231, 7-326, 8-332, 9-351

Tamil Nadu bowling: Mohammed 30.1-9-64-2, Sonu Yadav 28-6-91-3, Vijay Shankar 22-6-75-3, Sai Kishore 20-4-48-0, Ajith Ram 17-3-50-1, Mohamed Ali 4-0-16-1.

Tamil Nadu — 1st innings: Mohamed Ali b Thakare 4, N. Jagadeesan c Taide b Bhute 22, B. Sai Sudharsan c Yash Thakur b Thakare 7, M. Boopathi Vaishna Kumar c Wadkar b Thakare 0, Vijay Shankar c Wadkar b Thakare 22, C. Andre Siddarth c Taide b Dubey 65, Pradosh Ranjan Paul (batting) 18, R. Sai Kishore (batting) 6; Extras (lb-6, w-9): 15; Total (for six wkts. in 46 overs): 159.

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-36, 3-38, 4-38, 5-133, 6-136.

Vidarbha bowling: Yash Thakur 12-0-61-0, Thakare 12-2-18-4, Bhute 9-1-39-1, Dubey 10-1-33-1, Wakhare 3-1-2-0.

Jaymeet and Hingrajia put Gujarat in complete command

Vivek Krishnan
RAJKOT

Saurashtra has seldom had to contend with brooding faces and drooping shoulders in Rajkot in recent seasons of the Ranji Trophy. But at the end of day two of its quarterfinal against Gujarat at the Niranjan Shah Stadium on Sunday, the home team's position compelled a downbeat mood.

That Gujarat controlled proceedings for a second straight day was down to Jaymeet Patel and Manan Hingrajia racking up excellent half-centuries and steering the visitor to 260 for four at close. It has a first-innings lead of 44 runs with six wickets in hand. Jaymeet remains unbeaten on 88, and further agony may be brewing for Jaydev Unadkat's men if he and Urvil Patel manage to get going on the third day.

A third-wicket stand of 38 between Hingrajia and Siddharth Desai laid the groundwork for Gujarat's strong show with the bat. It wasn't much strictly in terms of runs, but by chewing up 151 deliveries in the partnership after Gujarat had lost openers Aarya Desai and Priyank Panchal early on day two, the southpaws ensured that the sheen and hardness of the red cherry wore off. Desai was extremely watchful in defence during his 92-ball 18, taking his promotion to No. 3 – he batted at No. 10 in the previous match – as a serious opportunity to showcase his utility with the willow.

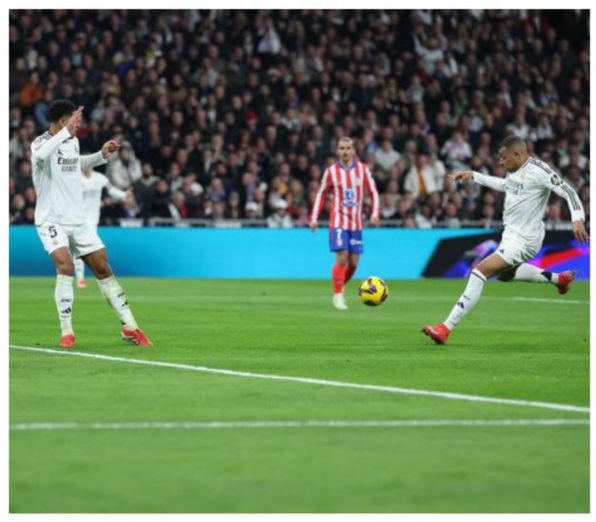
Left is right: Jayameet's knock put Gujarat in a dominant position. FILE PHOTO: E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Desai's vigil ended when he nicked Chirag Jani to slip in the first over after lunch. Hingrajia and Jaymeet built on the foundation with a 133-run alliance that took Gujarat's total from 79 for three to 212 for four.

While Hingrajia's knock embodied old-school patience, Jaymeet pounced on boundary-scoring opportunities. An array of drives and punches through the off-side came along early in Jaymeet's innings, keeping the scoreboard moving at a fair rate. Urvil, too, made his intentions clear after Hingrajia's dismissal for 83. Late in the day, he dispatched Unadkat for three successive fours through cover.

The scores:

Saurashtra — 1st innings: 216.
Gujarat — 1st innings: Priyank Panchal c Vasavada b Jani 25, Aarya Desai c Harvik b Unadkat 11, Siddharth Desai c Jackson b Jani 18, Manan Hingrajia c Jackson b Dharmendrasinh 83, Jaymeet Patel (batting) 88, Urvil Patel (batting) 29; Extras (nb-2, lb-4): 6; Total (for four wkts. in 95 overs): 260.
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-41, 3-79, 4-212.
Saurashtra bowling: Unadkat 19-6-59-1, Kanbi 12-2-53-0, Jani 14-5-25-2, Mankad 10-5-14-0, Dodiya 13-4-32-0, Dharmendrasinh 19-0-57-1, Gajjar 8-0-16-0.



The equaliser: Mbappe, right, winds up to fire in for Real against Atletico. AFP

Mbappe secures Real Madrid a derby draw against Atletico

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Kylian Mbappe secured Real Madrid a 1-1 draw against rival Atletico Madrid which kept Los Blancos top of LaLiga on Saturday.

Julian Alvarez converted a controversial first half penalty for Atletico but Mbappe was in the right place at the right home to bundle home early in the second half on his first appearance in the tense derby clash.

Real leads second-place Atletico by a single point, with Barcelona, third.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti opted to deploy his four key attacking players in Mbappe, Vinicius Junior, Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo Goes, in lieu of a more conservative approach. The star names got stuck in, not always a given in a defensive sense, and the first half was a hard-fought, intense battle with few clear openings for either side.

Atletico was upset when Real midfielder Dani Ceballos was only booked for an ugly challenge on Pablo Barrios, but it was the host which was left raging when referee Cesar Soto Grado pointed to the penalty spot.

Aurelien Tchouameni, covering at centre-back for Madrid, clumsily trod on Samuel Lino's foot in the box.

After a VAR review Soto Grado awarded a controversial penalty to Madrid's frustration, with the incident happening after the ball had run past the duo.

Alvarez took the penalty, the first given against Madrid in LaLiga this season, and cheekily dinked it down the middle.

Madrid pulled level early in the second half when Rodrygo broke loose on the right of the box and crossed for Bellingham.

The England international's shot was blocked but Mbappe was on hand to turn home the rebound and score on his first Madrid derby appearance.

Bellingham twice came close to putting Madrid ahead, nodding against the crossbar from Vinicius' cross and then heading straight at Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak from a similar position, kicking the post in frustration.Santiago Gimenez scored his first goal for AC Milan on Saturday as the seven-time European champion won 2-0 at Empoli in a Serie A clash which finished with both teams down to 10 men.

The results: Serie A: Venezia 0 lost to Roma 1 (Dybala 57-pen).
On Saturday: LaLiga: Las Palmas 1 (Fuster 84) lost to Villarreal 2 (Baena 53, Perez 66); Real Madrid 1 (Mbappe 50) drew with Atletico Madrid 1 (Alvarez 35-pen).
Serie A: Empoli 0 lost to AC Milan 2 (Leao 68, Gimenez 76).

Rudrankksh outscores Babuta for men's air rifle win

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

World champion Rudrankksh Patil shot 254.9 in the final, half a point better than the world record, to beat Olympic finalist Arjun Babuta by 2.3 points in men's air rifle in the National shooting trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range on Sunday.

Rudrankksh topped qualification with 633.3. Umamahesh Maddineni rose to the third place ahead of the World University championship silver medallist Smit Moradiya.

K.D. Jadhav, Niraj Kumar, Pratham Bhadana and Sandeep Singh were the others to make the final.

Podium finishers: Himani, topper Sift Kaur and Anjum in the women's rifle 3-position event. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

In women's rifle 3-position event, Asian Games gold medallist and world record holder Sift Kaur Samra shot 465.6 in a long-drawn final, that tested the patience of the shooters owing to frequent technical glitches, to beat Himani Poonia by 2.3 points for the top spot. Anjum Moudgil placed third ahead of Manini Kaushik, qualification topper Shriyanka Sadangi (594), Nupur Kumrawat, Lajja Gauswami and Aayushi Podder. It was a remarkable resurgence by Sift, as she had qualified with the lowest score of 589. Two other shooters Sakshi Padekar and Ashi Chouksey had missed the final with that score.

In men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol event, Anish Bhanwala pipped Bhavesh Shekhawat by one point for the first place, while qualification topper Vijayveer Sidhu (583) placed third ahead of Gurmeet, Rajat Yadav and Ankur Goel.

Gurpreet Singh missed the final by one point.

The results: 10m air rifle: Men: 1. Rudrankksh Patil 254.9 (633.3); 2. Arjun Babuta 252.6 (632.4); 3. Umamahesh Maddineni 231.2 (631.0). **25m rapid fire pistol:** 1. Anish Bhanwala 35 (581); 2. Bhavesh Shekhawat 34 (577); 3. Vijayveer Sidhu 28 (583).
50m rifle 3-position: Women: 1. Sift Kaur Samra 465.6 (589); 2. Himani Poonia 463.3 (592); 3. Anjum Moudgil 452.3 (592).

Fisher sets 3,000m world record at Millrose Games

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Grant Fisher of the United States set a world indoor record for the 3,000m on Saturday, downing Olympic 1,500m champion Cole Hocker in a thrilling battle at the Millrose Games meet here. Fisher ran a superb tactical race to blast past Hocker on the final lap, finishing in 7m 22.91s and beat Ethiopian Lamecha Girma's previous world best of 7:23.81 set in 2023.

The 23-year-old hit the front with three laps to go but was unable to shake off Fisher, who produced a devastating kick off the final bend to outpace Hocker down the home straight for victory.

Nabi credits playing four-day cricket to his growth

Fast bowler who idolises Dale Steyn also works on his batting after his under-19 century against Saurashtra, dreams of playing Tests for India

Reaping the rewards: Playing tournaments like Buchi Babu in the off-season has helped Nabi improve his game. EMMANUAL YOGINI

RANJI TROPHY

Shayan Acharya
PUNE

Growing up in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, Auqib Nabi started playing cricket with a tennis ball. Back then, there weren't any proper grounds and Nabi, along with his friends, would play on the hard surfaces and dreamed of donning the India colours someday.

The fast bowler, who claimed his eighth five-wicket haul in first-class cricket against Kerala on Sunday, still chases his dreams of playing Test cricket for the national team.

Ever since making his debut for J&K in red-ball cricket five years ago, the soft-spoken Nabi, who idolises Dale Steyn, believes that playing four-day cricket regularly has helped him and the team get better.

"Earlier, we could not play as many matches with red-ball, but for the last couple of years, we have been travelling outside the state in the off-season and playing in tournaments like Buchi Babu Trophy and those experiences have helped us improve our game," Nabi told *The Hindu*.

> For the last couple of years, we have been travelling outside the state in the off-season and playing in tournaments

So far in the season, Nabi is the leading wicket-taker for Jammu and Kashmir with 43 scalps, and is second in the overall list. While he loves to focus on the basics and be accurate while bowling stump-to-stump, the 28-year-old has significantly contributed with the bat as well.

Batting lower down the order, he has forged crucial partnerships - including the one against Kerala.

"When I went out to bat, coach (Ajay Sharma) told me to play freely and score runs, and I just followed his instructions," Nabi said.

Batting in the nets

During his U-19 days, he had scored a century against Saurashtra, coming in as a nightwatchman, and ever since, he makes it a point to bat regularly in the nets. "I like batting a lot," he said with a smile.

With 89 wickets in 28 first-class appearances, Nabi still has 'miles to go' to fulfil his dreams.

Magileto and Ashoka should fight out the finish

HYDERABAD: Magileto and Ashoka should fight out the finish of the Kakatiya Million, the feature event of Monday's (Feb. 10) races.

1 RISING STAR PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only, 1-10 p.m.: 1. Arizona Sun (3) Akshay K 56, 2. Country's Dictator (11) Tograllu 56, 3. Quick Bay Fox (8) A. Prakash 56, 4. Racing Ruler (2) Trevor 56, 5. Sharanga (5) Abhay 56, 6. Calabasas (4) P. Ajeeth K 54.5, 7. Golden Bourbon (6) Mohit 54.5, 8. Her Ladyship (1) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 9. Infinia (9) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 10. N R I High Power (7) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5 and 11. Senti (10) Md. Ekram 54.5.
1. RACING RULER, 2. CALABASAS, 3. ARIZONA SUN.

2 SIR BRUCE PLATE (1,600m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1-45 (whips not permitted): 1. N R I Skypower (7) Santosh Raj 60, 2. Alcahol Free (4) Rafique Sk. 59, 3. Antidote (6) Akshay K 59, 4. Federer (8) P. Ajeeth K 59, 5. London Bell (5) R.S. Jodha 58, 6. Caraxes (1) Mukesh 57.5, 7. City Cruise (2) Md. Ekram 53.5 and 8. Exclusive Spark (3) Mohit 53.5.
1. ANTIDOTE, 2. FEDERER, 3. CARAXES.

3 RISING STAR PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2-20: 1. Beast Master (2) G. Naresh 56, 2. Mauritius (4) Ashad Asbar 56, 3. Real Thalaivaa (8) Mohit 56, 4. Royal Warrior (6) P. Sai K 56, 5. Yuvraj (10) B.R. Kumar 56, 6. Emerald Touch (9) Neeraj 54.5, 7. Gusto's Baby (1) Afroz K 54.5, 8. Konaseema (5) Abhay 54.5, 9. Mahrosh (3) Gaurav 54.5 and 10. N R I Triple Power (7) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5.
1. EMERALD TOUCH, 2. ROYAL WARRIOR, 3. REAL THALAIVAA.

4 RAJA BAHADUR VENKATARAMA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II) (1,600m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 2-55: 1. D Minchu (6) Deepak 60, 2. Barbet (1) Mukesh 59.5, 3. Reigning Beauty (4) Shivansh 58, 4. Strauss (7) B. Nikhil 56.5, 5. Dali's Destiny (5) Trevor 55, 6. Fly Tothe Stars (3) Neeraj 54.5, 7. Anzio (8) P. Sai K 53.5 and 8. Tripurari (2) Mohit 53.
1. DALI'S DESTINY, 2. D MINCHU, 3. STRAUSS.

5 MIRZA ZUNNUR AHMED MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3-30: 1. Trishul (4) Ahsad Asbar 60, 2. Star Of Night (3) Antony Raj 59, 3. China Town (8) P. Ajeeth K 57.5, 4. Carnival Lady (7) Shivansh 57, 5. Sugar (6) Akshay K 56.5, 6. Ampere's Touch (1) Neeraj 55, 7. Just Incredible (5) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5, 8. Divine Destiny (9) Surya Prakash 53.5 and 9. Alpine Girl (2) Kuldeep Jr. 51.5.
1. STAR OF NIGHT, 2. AMPERE'S TOUCH, 3. SUGAR.

6 KAKATIYA MILLION (1,200m) (Terms), 4-y-o and upward, 4-05: 1. Magileto (6) Trevor 56, 2. Ashoka (4) Akshay K 55, 3. Uchchaihshravas (3) Neeraj 55, 4. Lashka (5) Ashad Asbar 53.5, 5. Malaala (2) Mukesh 53.5 and 6. O Hansini (1) Antony Raj 53.5.
1. MAGILETO, 2. ASHOKA.

7 RAJA BAHADUR VENKATARAMA REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (Div. I) (1,600m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 4-40: 1. Livermore (---), 2. Lucky Zone (7) Surya Prakash 59, 3. Brooklyn Beauty (1) G. Naresh 56.5, 4. Decoy (3) Akshay K 56, 5. Silver Act (4) Mukesh 55, 6. Delhi Heights (2) B. Nikhil 54, 7. Golden Gazelle (5) Trevor 54, 8. Hurricane Bay (---) and 9. True Icon (6) P. Ajeeth K 52.
1. SILVER ACT, 2. DECOY, 3. GOLDEN GAZELLE.

8 ABERADER PLATE (Div. I) (1,100m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5-15: 1. Morning Mist (11) Deepak 62, 2. Bold Beauty (3) Santosh Raj 61.5, 3. Hoping Star (4) R.S. Bhati 61, 4. Shoolin (14) Mukesh 60, 5. Classy Dame (9) R.S. Jodha 58, 6. Shooting Star (1) Akshay K 56.5, 7. Smart Boy (12) B.R. Kumar 56.5, 8. Pinatubo (5) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 9. Lego (2) H.M. Akshay 53.5, 10. Golden Unicorn (10) Rafique Sk. 53, 11. Jim (6) Uday Kiran 52.5, 12. Nav Kkhaa (7) Surya Prakash 52.5, 13. Niloufer The Great (13) P. Ajeeth K 52 and 14. Most Beautiful (8) Afroz K 50.
1. MORNING MIST, 2. BOLD BEAUTY, 3. SHOOTING STAR.
Day's Best : **SILVER ACT.**
JKT: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. Mini Jackpot : (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8. Treble : (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.
Tanala : All races.

Freestyle chess: Gukesh meets Caruana in quarters

Press Trust of India
HAMBURG

World champion D. Gukesh will take on Fabiano Caruana of the USA in the two-game quarterfinal after the latter picked the Indian in a unique format typical of Freestyle Chess Grand Slam.

Finishing eighth among 10 participants, Gukesh just about made it to the knockout stage edging out Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia and Levon Aronian of United States.

Final standings after rapid section: 1-2. Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 6.5), Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 6.5); 3. Fabiano Caruana (USA, 6); 4-5: Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 5.5), Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 5.5); 6. Vincent Keymer (Ger, 4); 7-8: Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 3.5), D Gukesh (Ind, 3.5); 9. Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 2.5) 10. Levon Aronian (USA, 1.5).

Mystical Dawn claims the Crown Treasure Plate

HYDERABAD: Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh's Mystical Dawn, ridden by A. Ashad Asbar, won the Crown Treasure Plate, the main event of Sunday's (Feb. 9) races here. The winner is owned by Mr. Kersi H. Vachha.

1. SURYAPET PLATE (1,800M): WANDRING WARRIOR (Akshay Kumar) 1, Take A Breath (H.M. Akshay) 2, Silver Arrow (P. Sai K) 3 and Shubhrak (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 1-1/4, 3 and 5. 1m 58. 11s. ₹25 (w), 12, 10 and 10 (p). SHP: 25, THP: 33, SHW: 14 and 11, FP: 58, Q: 30, Tanala: 85. Favourite: Take A Breath.
Owner: Mr. Mamidi Bhudevi Dilip Kumar. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

2. CROWN TREASURE PLATE (1,600M): MYSTICAL DAWN (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Corte Madera (Afroz K) 2, Lake Michigan (Akshay K) 3 and Ashwa Changez (Gaurav) 4. 3-3/4, 2 and 4-1/4. 1m 41. 13s. ₹20 (w), 10, 12 and 12 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 38, SHW: 15 and 15, FP: 60, Q: 45, Tanala: 86. Favourite: Lake Michigan.
Owner: Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

3. CIRCAR CUP (DIV. II) (1,400M): SARGENT (H.M. Akshay) 1, Amboseli (Mukesh) 2, Quality Warrior (Shivansh) 3 and Rani Ruckus (Md. Ismail) 4. 3-3/4, 1-1/4 and 1/2. 1m 28. 30s. ₹43 (w), 14, 28 and 14 (p). SHP: 93, THP: 46, SHW: 18 and 56, FP: 480, Q: 314, Tanala: 4,692. Favourite: Palash.
Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

4. NARAYANPET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): DYANOOSH (Akshay Kumar) 1, Runlikethewind (Shivansh) 2, Kings Best (P. Sai K) 3 and Sopranos (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 2, 1 and Neck. 1m 13. 16s. ₹47 (w), 14, 13 and 17 (p). SHP: 51, THP: 41, SHW: 11 and 33, FP: 332, Q: 141, Tanala: 605. Favourite: Runlikethewind.
Owners: Mr. Sardar Jivtesh Singh, Mr. Md. Sultan & Mr. M. Praveen Kumar. Trainer: M.F. Ali Khan.

5. FLIRTING VISION PLATE (1,400M): ANNHILATOR (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Knight Crusader (Antony Raj) 2, Star Forever (G. Naresh) 3 and Catchme If You Can (Mukesh) 4. Not run: Clara. 2, 3-1/2 and 2-1/2. 1m 26. 26s. ₹43 (w), 16, 10 and 19 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 40, SHW: 39 and 10, FP: 100, Q: 38, Tanala: 441. Favourite: Knight Crusader. Owners: Mr. Shrikanth Badruka, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. CIRCAR CUP (DIV. I) (1,400M): VARANEEK GOLD (H.M. Akshay) 1, Petra Act (Mukesh) 2, Shadow Of Light (Afroz K) 3 and Cherish The Lady (P. Sai K) 4. 2, 2 and 1/2. 1m 29. 42s. ₹102 (w), 17, 12 and 55 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 103, SHW: 33 and 11, FP: 553, Q: 78, Tanala: 2,980. Favourite: Petra Act.
Owner: Mr. Meka Nitish Reddy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

7. NARAYANPET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): FIRST CLASS (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Amyra (Shivansh) 2, High Reward (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Clefairy (P. Sai K) 4. Not run: Only My Way. 2, Neck and 3/4. 1m 13. 04s. ₹34 (w), 16, 10 and 46 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 84, SHW: 21 and 31, FP: 132, Q: 92, Tanala: 2,173. Favourite: First Class.
Owner: Mr. Rajeev Sharma. Trainer: Magan Singh.

8. ABERADER PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100M): GLIMMER OF HOPE (Gaurav Singh) 1, Pancho (Mukesh) 2, Muaser (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and D Battle (B.R. Kumar) 4. 1-1/2, Neck and 1-1/2. 1m 7. 21s. ₹115 (w), 30, 18 and 35 (p). SHP: 56, THP: 60, SHW: 31 and 35, FP: 766, Q: 239, Tanala: 4,397. Favourite: Swiss Girl.
Owner: Mr. Leeladhar Sharma. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.
Jackpot: 70%: ₹2, 46, 174 (c/o), 30%: 26, 375 (4 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: 4,217 (12 tkts.).
Treble: (I) 434 (75 tkts.), (ii) 1,622 (14 tkts.), (iii) 6,770 (6 tkts.).

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A BG-BGE

Full of guile: Crafty Mendez drew first blood for Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bengaluru gets back on track with a facile win over Jamshedpur

The side moves to fourth in the points table with a 3-0 victory; Noguera scores a brace; the host brings in Ralte as custodian ahead of the Gurpreet for the first time this season

ISL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

There was relief in a beleaguered Bengaluru FC camp as the side recorded a 3-0 win over Jamshedpur FC in their Indian Super League clash at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday.

A brace from Alberto Noguera and an Edgar Mendez strike helped BFC break a six-game winless streak. The host (31 points) moved up to fourth on the points table and reinvigorated its push for a playoff spot.

The fire to snap out of a bad run was apparent early, as the home team created chances aplenty.

Mendez was left alone with the JFC goalkeeper, but a weak side-footed shot was not up to finishing standard.

Save

Sunil Chhetri then stepped up to the penalty spot, a result of Sourav Das bringing down Suresh Wangjam. It took an extraordinary save from Albino Gomes to deny Chhetri.

Mendez managed to put BFC on the scoresheet just before half-time. The Spanish striker pressed a drop-ball that Pratik Chaudhari failed to clear, and slotted it home with minimal fuss.

BFC added another through an Alberto Noguera free-kick.

Noguera floated it into the box from way out, and was surprised to see the ball sneak into the back of the net.

The JFC defence was caught napping, distracted by BFC defender Rahul Bheke's header attempt. Bheke made no contact, even as he gestured to lay claim on the goal.

Done and dusted

Noguera put the game to bed with his second goal late in the match. For the first time this season, BFC goalkeeper Lalthuammawia Ralte earned a start ahead of Gurpreet Sandhu.

The result:

BFC 3 (Edgar Mendez 43, Alberto Noguera 57, 82) bt JFC 0.

Amritraj opens up about challenges to bring an ATP 250 event to India

Amritraj. R. RAGU

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Indian tennis legend and Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) president Vijay Amritraj on Saturday gave an update on his effort to bring an ATP 250 event to India.

"The ATP is revamping their whole schedule. So, they've come out with a calendar for 2026. There are two open weeks. There are two TBDs (To Be Decided) in the calendar. One in the summer, and one in the fall. So, I had gone after the fall event around eight or nine months ago. That's the Moscow event. That's now become a TBD.

"Two years ago, they put that event in Tel Aviv (Israel).

"Then, they took it out of Israel and stuck it for one year in Sofia (Bulgaria). And I'm here saying, 'Hey, give me the event!'

"The problem is that it's a winter tournament and it's here in November. So, we also have our window of Dec-Jan-Feb, or potentially two weeks in September after the U.S. Open. So, our windows are also a little narrow on when we can afford to have it. So, that's been the dilemma for them," he said on the sidelines of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger.

Format makes CT more challenging than WC: SA skipper Bavuma

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

South African captain Temba Bavuma on Sunday termed the ICC Champions Trophy a bigger challenge than the 50-over World Cup because lesser number of matches make it tough for teams to make a comeback. The marquee event is scheduled to start across Pakistan and Dubai from February 19, and South Africa will open their campaign against Afghanistan at Karachi on February 21.

"In the World Cup, you have time to take stock and step up. But in the Champions Trophy you can't do that but we are hopeful of going one step further in the tournament," Bavuma told a media conference here.

"Obviously, we have our sights on where we want to be in the Champions Trophy this time but the format makes it more challenging for teams when you look at the 50-over World Cup," he added.

Taking aim: Bavuma says South Africa has its sights on where it wants to be in the Champions Trophy. AFP

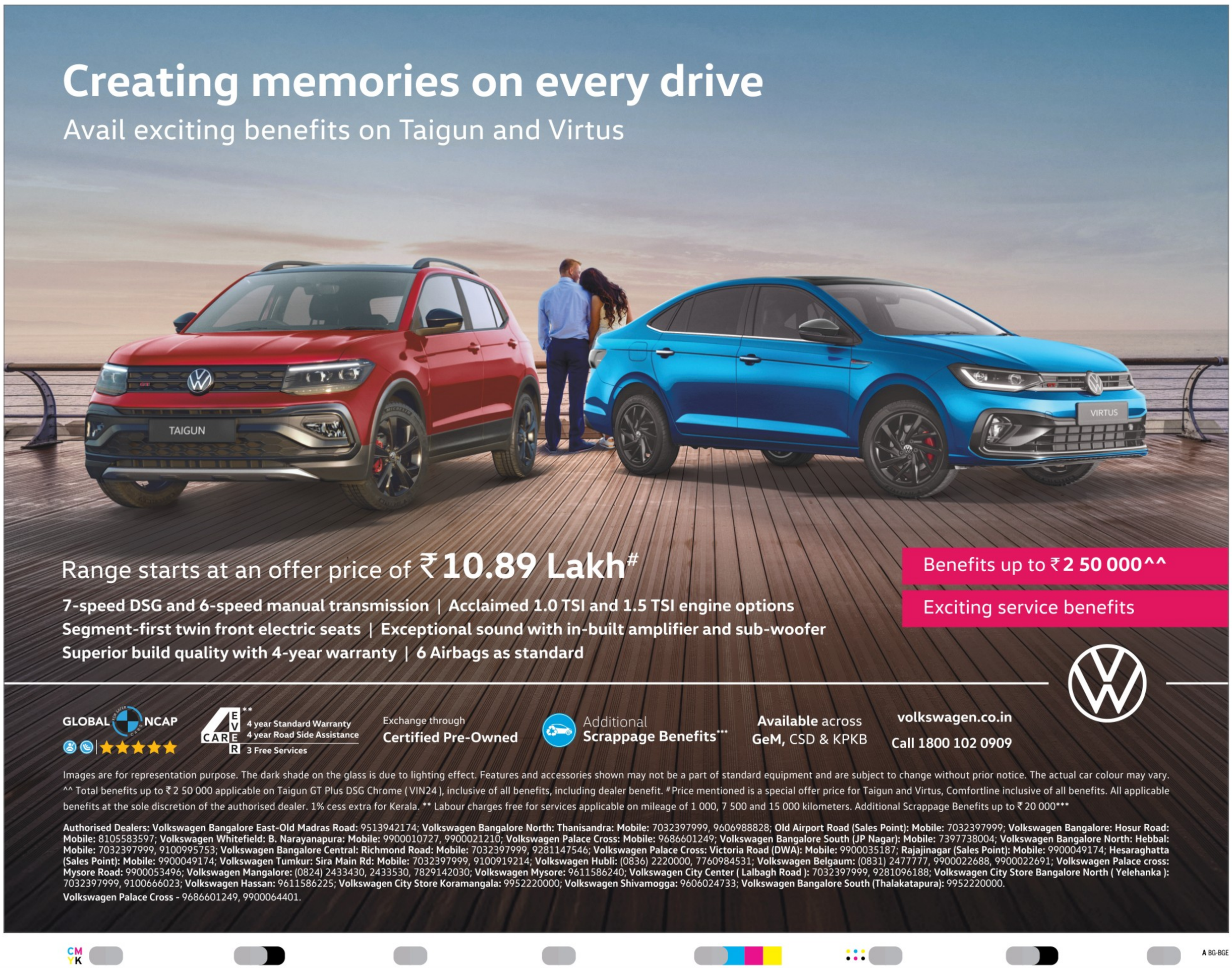
South Africa, the losing finalists of the T20 World Cup 2024, and the finalists of the upcoming World Test Championship, will face off New Zealand on Monday with a depleted squad, and at least five-six players are expected to debut.

Many of the players named in the squad for the Champions Trophy and tri-series are yet to join the side because they were part of the just-concluded SA20. Bavuma said it will be a challenge for the new players and team to play in foreign conditions but he noted they play a lot in different conditions.

"It is a lovely opportunity for a couple of guys who have been doing well in domestic cricket and in T20 leagues to make a statement on what value they can add to the team."

"The tri-series will give us a chance to acclimatise to playing in Pakistan and get knowledge to share it with a wider group and it is also an opportunity for young players to keep on playing in future," he said.

Bavuma hoped spinners Keshav Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi would play an important role in the Champions Trophy.

"Maharaj and Shamsi will give us a lot of help as we are presently tight for spin resources for the tri-series," he added.

Bavuma also said it was unfortunate Anrich Nortje was ruled out of the tournament, but said South Africa have good resources like Corbin Bosch. "We have bowlers who can bowl at high pace with the new ball," he signed off.